

**Inside:** Read the fourth installment of the series: ‘Combatting the crisis: Opioid addiction in the U.S.’ Pages A4 and A5

# Wabash Plain Dealer

\$3

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

Tomorrow's weather

51 | 39



INSIDE TODAY!



## Special section announcement

The Wabash Plain Dealer is publishing a special series each Wednesday until April 6 in collaboration with our regional news group. See pages A4 and A5 for the fourth part of our five-part series looking into overdoses and substance use disorder. The goal of the section is to increase collaboration to reduce fatal overdoses and drug dependency in north central Indiana. Thank you for your continued support.

## Notice to readers

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## Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distributions

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for

See **PULSE**, page A8

## Inside

Classified, B2 Sports, B1  
Comics, A6 Crossword, A6  
Obituaries, A3 Weather, A2



## Gov. Holcomb signs handgun permit requirement repeal law

Ohio's Republican governor signed a similar bill last week

By **ROB BURGESS**  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Monday, Gov. Eric Holcomb signed HEA 1296, a controversial bill that would repeal the requirement to obtain handgun permits.

“The Second Amendment

has been debated for years, yet time and again our U.S. Supreme Court has reaffirmed this important constitutional right that I fully support,” said Holcomb.

In signing the law, Holcomb went against the vocal opposition of his state police superintendent to the further loosening of the state's lenient firearms laws.

The permit repeal, called “constitutional carry” by gun-rights supporters about the Second Amendment,

was criticized by major law enforcement groups who argued eliminating the permit system would endanger officers by stripping them of a screening tool for quickly identifying dangerous people who shouldn't have guns.

At least 21 other states already allow residents to carry handguns without a permit – and Ohio's Republican governor signed a similar bill last week.

“Twenty-three other states

have laws comparable to HEA 1296. Vermont has had a constitutional carry law in place since it became a state, and several other states have had a similar law for more than a decade,” said Holcomb. “HEA 1296 ... entrusts Hoosiers who can lawfully carry a handgun to responsibly do so within our State. It's important to note that if a person is prohibited, under federal or

See **HANDGUNS**, page A7

## Parkview Wabash welcomes a special St. Patrick's Day baby

Emerald Isla was born at 1:45 a.m. Thursday, March 17

By **ROB BURGESS**  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Last week, a very special delivery occurred at Parkview Wabash Hospital.

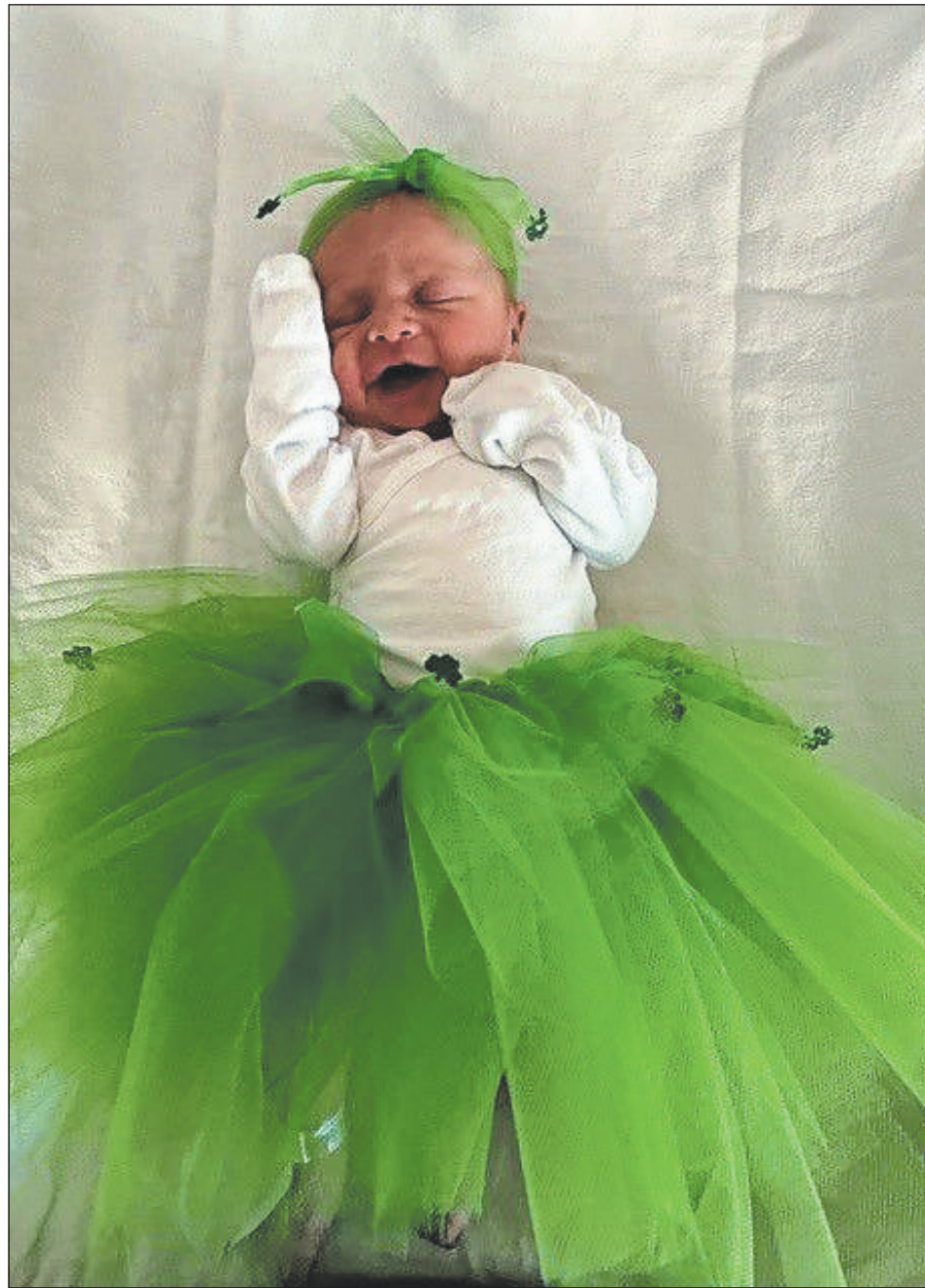
Parkview Health public relations specialist Leslie Megison said “Irish eyes were smiling” when St. Patrick's Day brought a new baby girl to the Family Birthing Center (FBC) at Parkview Wabash Hospital.

“Named Emerald Isla in keeping with the day, she was the delight of her family and the FBC nurses,” said Megison. “Green looks good on you.”

Emerald Isla was born at 1:45 a.m. Thursday, March 17 and weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces.

“To celebrate the birth and make the holiday even more festive, the FBC team's Savannah Seyer, BSN, RN, decided to treat little Emerald with her own version of the wearing of the green by making a tiny tutu and matching headband for her. The new outfit called for a photo session, of course,” said Megison. “Welcome to the world, little one. May the wind be always at your back and may the sun shine warm upon your face.”

In keeping with previous policy, Megison said they



Provided photo

See **BABY**, page A8

Emerald Isla was born at 1:45 a.m. Thursday, March 17 and weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces.

## Banks backs Leonard in primary race

By **BRETT STOVER**  
Huntington Herald-Press Editor

Rep. Dan Leonard, R-Huntington, received what could provide a major boost to his re-election hopes over the weekend as Rep. Jim Banks, R-Indiana, joined him on the campaign trail in Warren.

Banks, who called Leonard his “long-time friend and mentor,” worked with the state representative while serving in the Indiana State Senate before his election to Congress in 2016.

“I've learned a lot from him from my time serving at the statehouse,” Banks said.

“He's been a close advisor to me for many years. I'm proud to support him. He's been a conservative leader in the statehouse. He is very influential in Indianapolis and does a lot for Huntington County and northeast Indiana.

Leonard was thankful for the endorsement from the more prominent Republicans in Washington.

“Jim's pretty well respected throughout the third district, which includes all of Huntington County,” Leonard said. “It's just a great thing



Provided by JIM BANKS

U.S. Rep. Jim Banks and Indiana State Rep. Dan Leonard pose for a photograph in Warren last weekend.

See **PRIMARY**, page A7

## Gov. vetoes bill to ban transgender females from girls school sports

An override vote could happen as soon as May 24

By **ROB BURGESS** and **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

On Monday, Gov. Eric Holcomb vetoed a bill banning transgender females from participating in girls school sports.

Opponents of the transgender sports bill argued it was a bigoted response to a problem that doesn't exist, with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Indiana saying it planned a lawsuit against what it called “hateful legislation.”

Republican sponsors of the bill said it was needed to protect the integrity of female sports and opportunities for girls to gain college athletic scholarships but pointed out no instances in the state of girls being outperformed by transgender athletes.

Holcomb signaled support for the bill last month but said in his veto letter that the legislation “falls short” of providing a consistent statewide policy for what he called

See **VETO**, page A7

## WACT seeks applicants for new scholarship

Local student performers encouraged to apply

By **ROB BURGESS**  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

For the first time, the Wabash Area Community Theater (WACT) is offering a scholarship and is “striving to create a diverse cultural, creative and intellectual partnership in the county.”

WACT board president Bev Vanderpool said the \$500 scholarship will go towards tuition, books and study materials, housing, up to two tickets for a live professional theater performance with in the current semester and more.

Vanderpool said applicants must be either WACT high school students, age 16 or older, with a minimum of two years completed by the end of the current school year, current WACT members, current visual and performing arts performers or non-traditional students.

“Applicants should be planning on a course of study relating to either performance or associated vocations directly related to theater,” said Vanderpool. “Non-traditional students are encouraged to apply.”

See **WACT**, page A7



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# Money Smart Program to be held at the Wabash County YMCA

Series will be held monthly on the third Tuesday of every month

STAFF REPORT

The Wabash County YMCA has announced the upcoming Lunch and Learn Program, according to CEO Dean Gogolewski. The Lunch and Learn Program is free for the community and begins starting from 12:15 p.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, at the Wabash County YMCA, 500 S. Cass St. The pro-

gram will be held monthly on the third Tuesday of every month, through Jan. 17, 2023. Participation is limited to 14 guests. Register by calling 260-563-9622 or emailing [jthibos@wabashcountymca.org](mailto:jthibos@wabashcountymca.org). Participants will receive a free lunch on behalf of Crossroads Bank and will have the opportunity to learn about financial management. Topics include credit reports and scores, buying a home, how to budget, managing debt and more. To learn more about

the Wabash County YMCA, visit [www.wabashcountymca.org](http://www.wabashcountymca.org) or email [pgodfroy@wabashcountymca.org](mailto:pgodfroy@wabashcountymca.org). Learn more about the Wabash County YMCA job offerings at [www.wabashcountymca.org/jobs](http://www.wabashcountymca.org/jobs). To make a tax-deductible donation “to support the Y’s cause of strengthening the community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility,” visit [www.wabashcountymca.org/donate](http://www.wabashcountymca.org/donate) or email [jdriskill@wabashcountymca.org](mailto:jdriskill@wabashcountymca.org).

# Josiah White’s announces Josh Bowyer as VP and executive director of Residential Services

He and his wife, Melanie, began serving in 2008 as house parents

STAFF REPORT

Josiah White’s has announced Josh Bowyer as the new vice president and executive director of Residential Services, according to communications specialist Becca Andrews. Josh Bowyer and his wife, Melanie, began serving at Josiah White’s in 2008 as house parents. Since then, Josh Bowyer has served in various roles including campus life director and most recently, residential director. “Josh has served in a residential director role and provided steady leadership, direction and support to all of those who report to him. He has continually given 100 percent of his heart and ener-



Provided photo

Josiah White’s has announced Josh Bowyer as the new vice president and executive director of Residential Services.

gy to serving the needs of the staff and the children placed within our Residential Services program. Through his love for and faithfulness to serving Christ, he brings joy and hope to all situations, and it is a blessing that he has accepted the vice president and executive direc-

tor role,” said president and CEO Ron Evans. Matt Riggle, who previously served as vice president and executive director of Residential Services, will be assisting in Bowyer’s transition while also serving as vice president and executive director of Recovery Services. Bowyer’s transition to his new position began Jan. 31. “We have a great team focused on using thoughtful ingenuity to provide extraordinary care for the students while providing support to our family teachers. I am looking forward to working with the Residential team to achieve accreditation within the teaching family model by the fall,” said Bowyer. Bowyer holds a bachelor’s in psychology from Haver College and an MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University. Josh and Melanie Bowyer have two sons, Dave and Ike.

# Two Parkview hospitals receive Performance Leadership Award

This is the first time Parkview Wabash has received an award in this category

STAFF REPORT

Two Parkview hospitals, Parkview Huntington Hospital and Parkview Wabash Hospital have each been recognized by The Chartis Center for Rural Health and the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) with a Performance Leadership Award in the Patient Perspective category for 2021, according to public relations specialist Leslie Megison. Megison said the Performance Leadership Awards utilize the results of the Rural Hospital Performance INDEX,” the industry’s most comprehensive and objective assessment of rural hospital performance.”

“INDEX data is trusted by rural hospitals, health systems with rural footprints, hospital associations and state offices of rural health across the country to measure and monitor performance across a variety of areas impacting hospital operations and finance,” said Megison. “We are proud to recognize rural hospitals’ steadfast commitment to serving their communities and delivering high-quality care,” said Michael Topchik, national leader, The Chartis Center for Rural Health. “In the face of tremendous challenges, these top-quartile performers continue to exemplify the power of rural and create a blueprint for excellence in quality, outcomes and patient perspectives.” This is the second time Parkview Huntington has garnered a Performance Leadership Award in the Patient Perspective category.

The first was for 2019. “We’re so pleased to receive this recognition,” said Doug Selig, president of Parkview Huntington Hospital. “Despite the enormous challenges our team has dealt with this past year – and the year before – in adjusting to successive waves of COVID-19, they have continued to stay focused on delivering the high-quality care that our patients expect and appreciate.” This is the first time Parkview Wabash has received an award in this category. “This is a wonderful honor,” said Marilyn Custer-Mitchell, president of Parkview Wabash Hospital. “Last year was a difficult one, and it is such a boost for our frontline co-workers to receive this validation of all they’ve done to maintain excellent patient care in the face of extremely high volumes and changing conditions.”

# Disney in balancing act as some workers walk out in protest


By MIKE SCHNEIDER and BRENDAN FARRINGTON Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Even though only a small percentage of Walt Disney Co. workers participated in a walkout Tuesday, organizers felt they had won a moral victory with the company issuing a statement denouncing the anti-LGBTQ legislation that sparked employee outrage. Throughout the day, pockets of employees staged demonstrations at various sites across the country, including near Orlando’s Walt Disney World and Walt Disney Animation Studios in California. According to a Disney official, there had been no interruptions in any operations. Disney employed 190,000 workers last October, with roughly three-quarters work-


ing in its theme parks division. The debate forced the company into a balancing act between the expectations of a diverse workforce and demands from an increasingly polarized, politicized marketplace. On one side are LGBTQ advocates and Disney employees calling for the walkout in protest of CEO Bob Chapek’s slow response in publicly criticizing Florida legislation that opponents dubbed the “Don’t Say Gay” bill. The legislation awaiting the governor’s signature bars instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity in kindergarten through third grade. On the other side are politicians like Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, who accuse the entertainment conglomerate of bending to woke politics. Earlier this month,

the company decided to temporarily suspend political contributions in Florida. DeSantis, who has been tacking toward the Republican base on culture war issues, is seen as a 2024 presidential hopeful. Union leaders for the tens of thousands of unionized workers at Disney theme parks in Florida and California said they saw no walkout momentum among their members, advising them not to do so because it would defy contractual obligations. Evan Power, Leon County’s Republican Party chairman, said he believes a strident minority of Disney employees are pushing the issue, and DeSantis has more to gain by taking the side of parents who want more control over education and “sexual conversations” in early grades at school.


5-Day Weather Summary




Wednesday  
Showers Likely  
63 / 43




Thursday  
Few Showers  
51 / 39



Friday  
Mostly Cloudy  
48 / 36




Saturday  
Chance Showers  
45 / 29




Sunday  
Partly Cloudy  
48 / 32

Sun and Moon


Today's sunset ..... 7:58 p.m.  
Tomorrow's sunrise ..... 7:40 a.m.




Last  
3/25



New  
4/1



First  
4/9



Full  
4/16

Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with an 85% chance of showers, high temperature of 63°, humidity of 83%. South wind 11 to 18 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with an 85% chance of showers, overnight low of 43°. South southwest wind 14 to 18 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 38°.

# Beacon Credit Union kicks off its 11th annual Project Spotlight

The nomination period lasts through May 31, and voting will begin July 1

STAFF REPORT

Beacon Credit Union is announcing the kick-off of its 11th year of Project Spotlight, according to marketing coordinator Kelly Stuber. Project Spotlight is a program created by Beacon Credit Union “with the hope that individuals and organizations will be inspired to reach out and serve those living and working around them.” The campaign takes place in all 13 of the com-

munities that Beacon has a full-service Member Center. Everyone in the community, not just Beacon members, is invited to nominate worthwhile charitable organizations, community projects and local nonprofits that they believe deserve financial support through May 31. Nominations can be submitted by visiting [www.beaconcu.org](http://www.beaconcu.org) or at a Member Center. Beginning July 1, the public can start voting for their favorite cause. Voters are allowed to vote once per day per community online or in a Member Center. After voting online the public may share to social media to let others know that they have voted and encourage oth-

ers to vote for their favorite cause. “Last year, we received over 36,000 votes and we hope to have more votes and participation this year,” said Stuber. Voting will end on July 31. The project in each community that receives the most votes will win \$1,000 of funding from Beacon Credit Union. The second-place winners will receive \$500 of funding, and a third-place winner will be randomly drawn to receive \$250 of funding. The total amount of money donated to charitable organizations in Indiana by Beacon Credit Union through Project Spotlight in 2022 will be \$22,750.

# Josiah White’s launches new Recovery Services program for adolescents

Beginning March 28, adolescents and their families struggling with SUD will be eligible

STAFF REPORT

Josiah White’s has announced the launch of their new program, Recovery Services, according to communications specialist Becca Andrews. Andrews said beginning Monday, March 28, this program will serve adolescents and their families who are being impacted by a substance use disorder

(SUD). “In the past couple years, Josiah White’s has experienced a significant increase in requests from parents who have a child struggling with a (SUD),” said Andrews. “Parkview Health also approached Josiah White’s about their need for a residential recovery program for youth to come to following medical detox. Andrews said with Parkview’s support, Josiah White’s began taking active steps to make Recovery Services a reality. “Josiah White’s is honored and humbled to serve the needs of young people

whose lives are being impacted by addiction,” said Recovery Services vice president and executive director Matt Riggle. “It will be our privilege to partner with other providers throughout Indiana as well as those who have courageously worked their own recovery to walk beside these young people as they begin their journey toward physical, emotional and spiritual healing.” To make a referral to Josiah White’s Recovery Services program, email [katie.davidson@whitesrfs.org](mailto:katie.davidson@whitesrfs.org) or call 260-563-1158 ext. 3004.

SHARP CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
THIRD-QUARTER HONOR ROLL

Sharp Creek Elementary School has announced the A and A/B honor rolls for the third quarter of the school year, according to a press release.

A/B Honor Roll

Fourth grade

Landon Barlow, Cora Barnard, Eona Black, Ryleigh Drudge, Makynlea Elzy, Bristol Foust, Adalynn Hawken, Miranda Heister, Ethan Krom, Jasper Mckie, Ryker Mckillip, Josslyn Merrell, Dylan Miller, Jackson Renbarger, Colton Rice, Peyton Rife, Elijah Roark, Wyatt Selleck and Hattie Weaver.

Fifth grade

Kassidy Cartwright, Wyatt Clark, Avery Custer, Asa Dawes, Emelia Dixson,

Sixth grade

Kyra Aderman, Karsen Brown, Justin Brunett, Jailea Emley, Jordan Fields, Kasen Frank, Jazmine Gill, Cooper Good, Cody Holmes, James Kowalczyk, Kale Krom, Gavin Lester, Caiden Miller, Brice Peterson, Kolten Prus, Breckin Sanders, Izzabellah Schnurpel, Ean Selleck, Kyn-dall Shear and Stella Stephens.

A Honor Roll

Fourth grade


Andrew Biehl, Lydia Dubois, Maguire Dyson,

Fifth grade

Dallas Cruz, Jayla-Seanta Gill, Gemma Hauptert, Tenley Kuhn, Miranda Meyer, Patrick Nesler, Keira Oswalt and Chase Ross.

Sixth grade

Teagan Baer, Briggs Baker, Collin Biehl, Ali Copeland, Montgomerie Dawes, Megan Easterday, Brayden Gidley, Nathaniel Hodson, Madelyn Holley, Emily Miller, Preston Moore, Kaleigh Rice, Makaela Shoue, Breslyn Swihart, Calvin Thompson and Naomi Watson.



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# Obituaries

## Kevin Mark Rowan

Feb. 8, 1957 – March 16, 2022

Kevin Mark Rowan, 65, of Fort Wayne, Indiana passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, March 16, 2022.

He was born Feb. 8, 1957 in Parkersburg, West Virginia to the late Kevin and Nancy (Bell) Rowan and graduated from Belpre High School, Class of '75. Following graduation, Kevin attended West Virginia University in Parkersburg, Milwaukee School of Engineering in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; he ultimately attained a Six Sigma & Lean Certification. Prior to his career as a Materials Flow Coordinator for General Motors, he had owned Golden Corral Restaurant of Peru, IN, and performed various management roles as a Dalton Foundry employee. Kevin was also a co-owner and strong supporter of the Ft. Wayne's Farmers Market and it's mission. He married the love of his life, Leigh Robbins on Dec. 23, 1989 in Twelve Mile, Indiana and to this union two children were born, Luke and Bridjet Rowan.

Kevin was an avid runner who participated in marathons and half-marathons including Columbus, Boston, and Cleveland; he especially



enjoyed running the annual Circus City Festival Race while wearing a suit. In the off season, Kevin could often be found cheering on his beloved Cleveland Browns or Ohio State Buckeyes. He had various passions and interests including working on cars, gardening, and various outdoor activities awakened by his time as an Eagle Scout, including hiking, canoeing, and camping in various parts of the country with his wife and family.

Kevin is survived by his wife of 32 years, Leigh (Robbins) Rowan; son, Luke (Dana) Rowan; and daughter, Bridjet (Brian) Musser; six grandchildren, Brenden Rowan, Grant Rowan, Isabella Rowan, Rowan Muss-

er, Rosalind Musser and Rushton Musser; sister, Nola (William) Miller; sister-in-law, Marsha Acheson; and niece, Tammy Rowan.

Kevin was predeceased by his sister, Ruth A. Rowan; and brother, William "Bill" Rowan.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, March 24, 2022 at The Summit, 1025 W Rudisill Boulevard from 9:00 a.m. to noon, and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. A short Celebration of Life ceremony will be held at 4:00 p.m.

To honor and reflect his love for the outdoors, camping, and his time Scouting, in lieu of flowers please donate to Kevin Rowan C.O. Mollenhour Camp Memorial Fund, Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne, 555 E. Wayne St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. This is a youth education camp for boys and girls to learn about various outdoor life skills ranging from proper firearms handling and use, to tracking and trapping animals, and fishing and water safety.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.AdvantageHighlandPark.com](http://www.AdvantageHighlandPark.com) for the Rowan family.

## T. Maxine Hentgen

Oct. 27, 1929 – March 18, 2022

T. Maxine Hentgen, 92, of Roann, Indiana, went to be with her Lord at 12:41 pm, Friday, March 18, 2022, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne. She was born on Oct. 27, 1929, in Denver, Indiana, to Harry Lee Sr. and Grace I. (Ream) Draper.

Maxine was a 1948 graduate of Jefferson Township High School in Mexico, Indiana, and grew up in Denver. She married Dwight Herschell Hentgen in Denver on April 23, 1950; he died February 25, 2012. She worked several years at Wabash Magnetics, Bertsch Vending, and the Francis Shoppe, all of Wabash. Maxine was a member of the Roann United Methodist Church. She enjoyed cooking and flower gardening, but her family was most important to her. She loved spending time with her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by two children, Steven (Jane) Hentgen of Wabash, and Karen (Larry) Smalley of Urbana, Indiana; son-in-law, Robert Jacobs of Wabash, seven grandchildren, Nickolas (Kourtney)



Hentgen and Tyler Jacobs, both of Wabash, Alexander (Madison) Hentgen of Fishers, Indiana, Kalie (Jeremy Newport) Smalley and Cody (Alexi) Smalley, both of Indianapolis, Joshua (Abby) Smalley of North Manchester, Indiana, and Adam Smalley of Urbana; six great-grandchildren, Shaylee Jacobs, Kayden Jacobs, Kyler Newport, Adaleigh Hentgen, and Hayes Hentgen, all of Wabash, and Remington Hentgen of Fishers; sisters and brothers, Wilma Lesley of Mexico, Indiana, Kay Parrett of Warsaw, Indiana, Becky (Dennis) Ohmart

of Churubusco, Indiana, Cheryl Brewer of Liberty Township, Ohio, Robert (Debbie) Draper of Springhill, Florida, Mike Draper of Laotto, Indiana, and Sue (Mark) Morris of Bluffton, South Carolina. She was also preceded in death by her parents, daughter, Candice "Kandi" Jacobs, grandson, Jeffrey J. Rhoads, great-grandson, Kye H. Hentgen, great-granddaughter, Layker H. Hentgen, step-mother, Barb Draper, brother, Harry Lee Draper, Jr. and sister, Deborah Draper.

Funeral services will be 10:30 am, Thursday, March 24, 2022, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, with Pastor Wayne Balmer officiating. Entombment will be in Chapel of Remembrance Mausoleum, at Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash. Friends may call 2-7 pm Wednesday, at the funeral home.

The memorial guest book for Maxine may be signed at [www.grandstaff-hentgen.com](http://www.grandstaff-hentgen.com).

## Jason Enyeart

July 28, 1977 – March 18, 2022

Jason Enyeart, 44, Chicago, Illinois, formerly of North Manchester, died March 18, 2022. The son of Mark and Jan (Flinn) Enyeart, Jason was born July 28, 1977.

Surviving is his father and mother, Mark and Jan Enyeart; brothers, Brian (Stephanie) Enyeart, Chris (Noelle) Enyeart, and Craig (Shara) Enyeart; sister, Amy Enyeart; nieces, Grace, Olivia, and Brilee Enyeart;

nephews, Quentin, Noah, Bryson, Braxton, Colton, Connor, and Corbin Enyeart; longtime friend, Richard Foesz.

A graveside service will be held April 12, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at Pleasant Hill Cemetery, 997 West State Road 114, North Manchester.

Arrangements are entrusted to McKee Mortuary.

## Doris Jane (Hatton) Rice

Doris Jane (Hatton) Rice, 88, North Manchester, passed away on March 17th, 2022 at home.

The loving memory of Doris Jane Rice will be forever cherished by her husband, Allen D. Rice; sons, Michael

(Bev) Rice, Ronald Rice, Steven Rice, Douglas (Lisa) Rice, and Andrew (Jennifer) Rice, Bippus; daughters, Rebecca Rice, Bonnie Smith, and Jennifer (Brian Shield) Rice.

Family and friends may call Monday,

March 21st from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at McKee Mortuary, 1401 State Road 114 West, North Manchester. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, March 22nd, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. with visitation one hour prior.

## Rose Marie Ducharme

Dec. 5, 1946 – March 18, 2022



She is survived by two children, Michell (Pete) Dupont of LaFontaine, and Richard J. (Heather Martin) Keen, III of Dresden, Maine, three grandchildren, Alora (Kaleb) Coss of LaFontaine, Toby Zboray of Dresden, and Lonnie Zboray of Surry, Maine, two great-grandsons, Steele Joseph Coss and Diesel Soloman Coss, both of LaFontaine; brothers and sisters, Rudy (Kathy) Ducharme of San Diego, California, Pat (Sherwood)

Labar of Mount Bethel, Pennsylvania, Peter (Barb) Ducharme III of Golden Hill, Oregon, Andrew (Gloria) Ducharme of Bangor, Pennsylvania, Sharon Mack and Mary Lou (Lee) Steele, both of Mount Bethel; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, sister Susan Frible, and her niece Christina Roberts.

A memorial service will be held at 1:30 pm Friday, March 25, 2022 at St. Paul Catholic Church, 1031 W Kem Rd, Marion, IN 46952, with Father Ted Rothrock. Inurnment will be in the Chapel of Remembrance Mausoleum at Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

Preferred memorial is Elkhart County Hospice.

The memorial guest book for Rose Marie may be signed at [www.grandstaff-hentgen.com](http://www.grandstaff-hentgen.com).

## Paul Dean Fouts

March 27, 1932 – March 17, 2022



daughter Beverly (Jon) Vanderpool of Wabash; six grandchildren, Wendy (Toby) Holsman of Fishers, Dr. Nathan Vanderpool of Berlin, Germany, Angela (Josiah) Cazares of Indianapolis, Jacob Fouts and Margie (Jake) Roller, both of Loganpsort, and Andrew Watcher of Lowell, Indiana; 10 great grandchildren, and

one great great grandchild. He was also preceded in death by his parents, son Michael Dean Fouts, grandson Eli Fouts, and siblings, Billy Fouts and Judy Fouts Stroud.

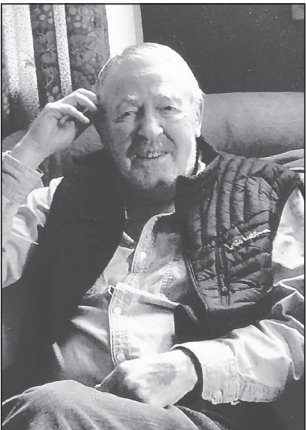
Per Paul's wishes, a private family graveside service will be held. The family will receive friends in Paul's memory at a Celebration of Life Service at Christ United Methodist Church on Saturday, March 26, 2022 from 3-7 p.m. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

In lieu of flowers and gifts, the family has asked for donations to Wabash Area Community Theater Building Fund, Po Box 840, Wabash, IN 46992.

The memorial guestbook for Paul can be signed online at [grandstaff-hentgen.com](http://grandstaff-hentgen.com)

## Stephen Guffin Jones

July 1, 1939 – March 17, 2022



Wayne, Indiana. He leaves behind three grandchildren, whom he adored: Katherine Tate of Indianapolis, Indiana, Kyle Grigsby of Indianapolis, Indiana, and Blake Grigsby of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and his brother Edward K. (Pete) Jones of Wabash, Indiana. He was proceeded

in death by his wife Sandra "World's Best Mom" Jones and his parents.

"Something has spoken to me in the night... and told me that I shall die, I know not where. Saying: '(Death is) to lose the earth you know for greater knowing; to lose the life you have, for greater life; to leave the friends you loved, for greater loving; to find a land more kind than home, more large than earth.' " -Thomas Wolfe

A private family ceremony will take place at a later date.

McDonald Funeral Homes, 231 Falls Avenue, Wabash, Indiana, 46992, have been trusted with Stephen Jones' final arrangements.

Online condolences may be directed to the family at [www.mcdonaldfunerals.com](http://www.mcdonaldfunerals.com)

# Scientists worry virus variant may push up COVID cases in U.S.

By LAURA UNGAR  
AP Science Writer

With coronavirus cases rising in parts of Europe and Asia, scientists worry that an extra-contagious version of the omicron variant may soon push cases up in the United States too.

Experts are also keeping their eyes on another mutant: a rare delta-omicron hybrid that they say doesn't pose much of a threat right now but shows how wily the coronavirus can be.

The U.S. will likely see an uptick in cases caused by the omicron descendant BA.2 starting in the next few weeks, according to Dr. Eric Topol,

head of Scripps Research Translational Institute.

"It's inevitable we will see a BA.2 wave here," he said.

One reason? After about two months of falling COVID-19 cases, pandemic restrictions have been lifted across the U.S. Many people are taking off their masks and returning to indoor spaces like restaurants and theaters.

And the latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows the share caused by BA.2 is up significantly. The CDC reported Tuesday that the variant accounted for about 35 percent of new infections last week. In the Northeast, it was about half.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government's top infectious disease expert, told ABC's "This Week" over the weekend that he also thinks the U.S. will likely face an "uptick" similar to what's happening in Europe, particularly the United Kingdom, where BA.2 is the dominant strain. He said he doesn't think it will be a "surge."

The U.K. has "had the same situation as we've had now," Fauci said. "They have BA.2. They have a relaxation of some restrictions such as indoor masking and there's a waning of immunity" from vaccines and past infections.

Keri Althoff, a researcher at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg

School of Public Health, cautioned that CDC case counts underestimate the true numbers because some people are no longer getting tested and others are testing at home and not reporting the results. Also, she said, not every specimen is genetically sequenced to determine the variant.

It's clear, she said, "BA.2 is coming onto the scene."

One reason the variant has gained ground, scientists say, is that it's about 30 percent more contagious than the original omicron. In rare cases, research shows it can sicken people even if they've already had an omicron infection – although it doesn't seem to cause more severe disease.

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**Combating the Crisis**  
*Opioid Addiction in the U.S.*

March 2022

*This is part four of our five-part series – a collaboration between the five papers in our newsgroup – looking into overdoses and substance use disorder. The goal of the section is to increase collaboration to reduce fatal overdoses and drug dependency in north central Indiana.*



One80's ribbon-cutting ceremony attracted numerous community members from different organizations, such as Clinton County Commissioners, City of Frankfort, Farmers Bank and more.

Photos provided

‘These are good people who just have addiction issues’

Clinton County officials see promise in battling drug crisis with rehabilitation

By **CARL GINGERICH**  
[cgingerich@ftimes.com](mailto:cgingerich@ftimes.com)

Clinton County overdose deaths are expected to increase in 2022 according to county officials, but new recovery programs and increased patrols are fighting against the opioid crisis.

According to Clinton County Coroner Ed Cripe, four people have overdosed and died from fentanyl in 2022 in Clinton County. Cripe said that only two people died from methamphetamine and four died from fentanyl in 2021 in the county. Therefore, the same number of people who died from fentanyl in 2021 is already equal to the number of people who died from fentanyl in the first three months of 2022.

As addiction develops, Clinton County Sheriff Rich Kelly said that people may continue to use more opioids with less caution to feed their cravings, which could result in an overdose or death.

“It’s the heroin and the fentanyl that are the true killers,” said Kelly. “With overdoses, it’s definitely the opioids. We have to understand that with methamphetamine to heroin to fentanyl, you don’t know what you’re getting. You don’t even know where it comes from. These people are ingesting



One80 began its ground-breaking project on Feb. 11, 2021, with aspirations of aiding the community. Chairman Rich Reck delivered a speech at the ground-breaking ceremony and the opening ceremony to celebrate the organization's accomplishments.

it, they’re smoking it ... they’re injecting it and all the above. It’s a chemical combo where they don’t even know what they’re putting in their body.”

Kelly stated that the opioid epidemic has been heightened as a result of numerous factors, including federal regulation, the economy and the pandemic. He said that COVID-19 altered the way some law enforcement agencies operated, such as slowing down calls, causing staffing issues and leading to other complications and concerns. However, Kelly commented that 2022 shows promise to slow down the drug trade and decrease overdose deaths and addiction.

“We are having more fentanyl and more drugs enter into the United States now than we had in the past,” said Kelly. “I think right now and for the last two years, it’s been prime time for drugs to be traf-

ficked into the United States and moved about the United States.”

Kelly mentioned that the overdose deaths are concerning, but the threat of addiction and the funneling of opioids into the state and county is of equal concern. Kelly stated that the measurements on the quantity of opioids on the market is unforeseeable, but law enforcement strives to limit the demand for the products.

“The deaths that occur are just a portion of what’s going on. That is a very small measure. It’s terrible to lose somebody, but it is hard to measure how much more heroin, how much more meth and how much more fentanyl is out there,” he said. “It tells you that somebody is out there pushing a lot of it, and it’s not a good result for the people that are buying and using this.”

Kelly commended new developments in recovery resources within

Clinton County for their efforts in combating the crisis locally, stating that people who are struggling with addiction require structure, encouragement and opportunities to thrive after re-entering the community.

“Our community has stepped up. The One80 recovery home provides a fantastic opportunity for people to do an in-house recovery and also the WeCare home for our females in the community,” said Kelly. “Those are people that have made the decision to make some huge decisions in their lives. Prior to those few locations, we didn’t have anything.”

One80, the most recent recovery resource opened in Clinton County, provides a nine-to-12-month, faith-based recovery program for those with substance abuse disorders. The Board for One80 Recovery Resources and other staff include Larry Glass, Pastor David Fry, Paul Fry, Lorra Archibald, Rich Reck, Greg George and more.

After losing his 26-year-old son, Tyler, to a drug overdose in 2018, One80 board chair Richard Reck sought to make a difference in the lives of those struggling with addiction. Reck said that the program began without any funds, but the board and directors opened a checking account and began drafting a vision statement, mission statement and plan for programming.

“When I lost my son, my pain wasn’t that in the form of anger. The pain was the sadness that I

had in my heart. ‘Another young life taken too soon.’ I took my sadness and I leaned into the Lord for guidance. The weight on my shoulders was pretty heavy. But, the Lord provided the way and I am extremely fortunate to find myself in the position I am in today,” said Reck.

Reck focused namely on the effects of addiction on family members as well as the addicts themselves. Reck stated that the children of opioid users often suffer as a result of the addiction, whether they lose a parent, delve into drugs themselves or develop depression or other mental health issues.

“When I reference the drug epidemic and how it is impacting our children, I am not just talking about the children that are battling drug addiction,” said Reck. “I am also talking about the children that are left without their parent or parents due to drug abuse, which is creating an enormous increase in the number of children in Indiana displaced from their parents.”

According to Reck, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has seen a spike in overdose deaths in 2020 compared to 2018 and 2019. Reck cited the CDC’s study that reported 67,000 overdose deaths in 2018, 70,000 overdose deaths in 2019 and 93,000 overdose deaths in 2020. Reck stated that the projected number of overdose deaths in 2021 exceeded 100,000 in the U.S.

See CLINTON, page A5

Witham Health Services offers help

ARTICLE PROVIDED

In 2019 Witham Health Services saw the need to focus more attention on the mental health crisis taking place in our community. At that time the Witham Health Services Foundation started the Mental Health in the Emergency Department program. This program gives every patient who comes to Witham’s Emergency Department with a mental health crisis the opportunity to receive immediate treatment from an Integrative Wellness mental health professional. Patients who enter either of Witham’s Emergency Departments, Lebanon or Whitestown at Anson can get support 24 hours a day.

From January 2021 to August 2021, Witham saw 129 patients in the ED who had a

mental health crisis. Out of that 129, 38 percent were children under the age of 18. These numbers do not reflect those who came via ambulance, a physician visit or event those who were already inpatients at Witham. These numbers truly show how necessary these programs are for our community.

By partnering with Integrative Wellness, Witham was able to expand services to help those in our surrounding communities. Witham now provides counseling, psychiatry, recovery and addiction services. Witham psychiatrists, Dr. Renee Gill and Dr. David Pison see patients in the Integrative Wellness offices at Lebanon and Zionsville locations. Therapists and counselors are available in four of Witham’s convenient locations; Crawfordsville, Frankfort, Lebanon and Zionsville.

Witham physician, Dr. Crystal Jones and Nurse Practitioner, Kevin Boone, see patients for recovery and addiction services and provide medication assisted treatment at the main Lebanon campus. In Crawfordsville and Frankfort, Integrated Wellness provider, Gina Grzegorek, NP sees patients and can provide medication assisted treatment.

Through client-centered practice, and a diverse group of therapists and physicians, Witham Health Services and Integrative Wellness are able to coordinate care and connect patients to the services they need for their mental health treatment. Witham Health Services continues to integrate the most advanced technology so it can continue to offer the highest quality of compassionate healthcare in Frankfort and the oth-

er convenient locations in Boone County.

For more information visit [www.witham.org/gethelp](http://www.witham.org/gethelp).

Appointments can be made with a provider or intake therapist, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling 765-680-0071.

- Witham Physician Specialty Center, Integrative Wellness, 407 E. Market Street, Crawfordsville, IN 47933
- Witham Health Services – Frankfort, Integrative Wellness, 2485 East Wabash Street, Frankfort, Indiana 46041
- Witham Psychiatry Integrative Wellness, 610 North Lebanon Street, Lebanon, IN 46052
- Witham Psychiatry, Integrative Wellness, 1650 W. Oak Street, Suite 200, Zionsville, IN 46077

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# Aunt fears her nieces are in danger at home

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm concerned for my sister and her three young daughters. She has been married to "Rick" for 10 years.

After she recently discovered he has inappropriate feelings toward children, she kicked him out of their home.

Rick has gotten counseling and therapy and tells her it's no longer an issue. CPS got involved, so he isn't allowed to be alone with his daughters. My sister allowed him back in their home with the understanding he wouldn't be alone with the girls. She now realizes he still has a problem, and she's considering divorce to keep them safe.

I'm concerned because she is conflicted. She thinks he'll get better after more intense therapy, but I'm afraid this is his way of not losing access to his girls. I think she should cut all ties to keep her daughters safe. What can I do to help my sister make the better choice for her and her daughters, who are under the age of 10? – Worried Sister In California

**DEAR WORRIED SISTER:** As long as your sister's children are minors, their mother must protect them, and that includes ensuring they are not alone with their father. Their safety must be paramount. She doesn't appear to realize how difficult pedophilia is to treat. That's why it's important for her to talk with a mental health professional and CPS. Her first allegiance must be to her vulnerable girls, who may need therapy themselves at this point.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have a friend, "Amy," who I've known since third grade. We both came from difficult family situations, and because of those tough early years, we formed a close bond. We are more like sisters than friends. Over the past few years, Amy (who always struggled with weight) has put on more than 100 pounds.

We live far apart and, although she mentioned "a weight gain," it wasn't until we video-chatted and she was modeling a new outfit that I realized she has become morbidly obese. When my mother went through menopause, like Amy, she gained significant weight. Like Amy, Mom avoided exercise and healthy food. My mother died of a massive heart attack at 57.

I'm scared I'm going to lose my friend. She's pre-diabetic with a host of weight-related health problems. But weight is something that culturally we aren't allowed to talk about, and it's something she's sensitive about because her parents constantly harped on her about her weight, even when she was only a few pounds overweight in her teens.

Do I say something and hurt/offend my friend? Is it none of my business? I love her and I don't want to lose her. What do I do? – Torn Up

**DEAR TORN UP:** I assume that because you and Amy have been friends since childhood, she knows what caused your mother's early death. If you talk to her ONCE about your concern, and explain that you are worried about losing her, I can't see how it would "offend" her. Because she is pre-diabetic, I would hope that she is being monitored by her doctor.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

Dear Abby



## CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**

1 Sink

4 Leia's love

7 Geologic feature

11 Government org.

12 Son of Aphrodite

14 Poet's black

15 Fuss

16 Money owed

17 NYC eatery

18 Slander

20 Slackened off

22 Maude portrayal

23 Dent

24 Orchard pest

27 Tickled

30 Meadow bellows

31 Deeply impressed

32 Caress

34 Crest

35 Actress Deborah

36 Loaded

37 Best clothes

39 Sticky

40 Numero —

41 Danson or Turner

42 Turns aside

45 Like Clorox

49 Splits open

50 Bassoon

55 Hired cousin

52 Letter before sigma

53 Shrink's reply (2 wds.)

54 Solitary

55 Last letters of vehicle

56 Last letters of NBA

57 Unsold of the NBA

58 B'way box office sign

**DOWN**

1 Swindle

2 Non-soap opera

3 Liverpool polky

4 Wouldn't commit

5 Place for a rodeo

6 Cribbage card

31 Spray can

Answer to Previous Puzzle

G	E	M	T	O	M	R	O	M	P
A	R	I	A	I	D	E	I	D	E
P	I	C	I	T	E	M	F	I	A
K	A	F	K	A	F	L	E	D	
E	I	N	P	I	E				
R	A	C	E	D	S	L	E	D	G
A	G	A	O	S	L	O			
J	U	S				W	A	Y	S
A	T	R	I	U	M		W	H	E
A	T	M				K	E	A	
N	U	N	S			O	L	I	V
R	I	C	K			R	E	A	L
O	G	L	E			A	W	L	S
C	H	A	R			Y	E	A	
						A	L	P	

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11				12			13		14		
15				16					17		
18				19			20	21			
			22				23				
24	25	26				27			28	29	
30						31			32		33
34				35					36		
	37	38						39			
			40					41			
42	43	44				45			46	47	48
49						50	51			52	
53						54				55	
56						57				58	

3-23

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## SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

	1			7	2	4			
				9	4	8			3
	7		3	1		5			
					6		8		9
	6	9			8		7	2	
7		4			9				
		7			5	9			3
8				6	3	1			
		1	7	2					8

3/23

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION																										
9	6	7	1	2	5	3	8	4																		
3	4	2	7	8	6	1	5	9																		
5	1	8	3	4	9	6	2	7																		
8	5	3	6	7	4	2	9	1																		
2	7	6	9	5	1	8	4	3																		
4	9	1	2	3	8	5	7	6																		
6	2	5	4	9	3	7	1	8																		
7	3	4	8	1	2	9	6	5																		
1	8	9	5	6	7	4	3	2																		

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TAARP

SUHLP

SYDIMA

PHANEP

3-23

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Ans. here: A

Saturday's Jumbles: IMAGE THICK EQUATE TEACUP  
Answer: When he started complaining about his job again, his wife told him to — QUIT IT

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

The studio is ecstatic with the nomination and your first starring role!

I hope I keep getting parts like this. It was huge!

3-23

RON HOWARD DIRECTED TOM HANKS AND DARYL HANNAH IN A MOVIE THAT ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

3-23

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## BEEBLE BAILEY

DID YOU EVER THINK OF ASKING FOR A PROMOTION?

I'D HAVE TO TRANSFER, SO WE WOULDN'T BE TOGETHER

I THINK I LIKE YOU BETTER UNMOTIVATED

GREG + MORT WALKER

3/23

## BLONDIE

WOOF! WOOF!

I DON'T THINK DAISY LIKES THE NEW DOG FOOD I GOT HER

IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH IT?

YEAH, IT'S NOT THE OLD DOG FOOD

3-23

## HI & LOIS

HEE HEE

WHAT'S SO FUNNY, TRIxie?

I BLEW A KISS AT DADDY SO HARD IT KNOCKED HIM DOWN.

HE'S SUCH A JOKER.

3-23

## BC

SNIFF

SNIFF SNIFF SNIFF

WRONG HOUSE, BUB.

3-23-22

## WIZARD OF ID

HOW LONG YOU IN FOR?

10 YEARS OR 10,000 KNOTS- WHICHEVER COMES FIRST

3-23-22

## DILBERT

I WANT TWO THINGS.

FIRST, I WANT OUR ADS TO BOAST THAT WE BUILD OUR PRODUCTS WITH 100% NATURAL ELBONIUM.

ELBONIUM ISN'T A REAL MATERIAL.

SECOND, I WANT YOU TO STOP BEING LIKE THIS.

3-23-22

## GARFIELD

CAT

DOG

DIPWAD

3-23

## FORT KNOX

I THINK FRANK NEEDS AN INTERVENTION.

DID HE GET BACK WITH HIS EX?

NO, HE SPENDS ALL HIS TIME AT THE GYM.

WORK IT OUT

SO WHERE DO YOU PLAN ON HOLDING THIS INTERVENTION?

MEET & GREET

IN THE SAUNA.

HEAT IT UP

3-23

## PICKLES

HAVE YOU BEEN FOLLOWING THE NEWS LATELY?

I DON'T KNOW WHO TO BELIEVE ANYMORE.

DO YOU?

YUP

I BELIEVE I'LL HAVE A COUPLE OF SLEEVES OF FIG NEWTONS.

3/23

# Heaven is our true home

From the writings of Billy Graham

**Q:** I feel guilty sometimes because I long to leave this life and go to Heaven. My family tells me this is sinful ... that I should be glad to have the breath of life every day, but I am elderly and live alone, and the more I read my Bible the more I desire to see the Lord. — L.H.

**A:** If Christians never yearn for Heaven, it may mean we've become too satisfied or too preoccupied with our lives right now! It's easy to become so overwhelmed with our problems that we focus only on what is happening to us at the moment. But whatever we experience in this life should cause us to look to the Lord for peace and comfort, because He will provide it to those who fol-

low Him. The Lord is with us through our sufferings, and He awaits us as we emerge on the other side of the tunnel of testing — into the light of His glorious presence to live with Him forever.

For those who trust in Jesus Christ, Heaven is our true home, and many times we grow homesick for Heaven — especially in the midst of the sin, sufferings, and sorrows of this life. A tug at our souls for Heaven is homesickness coupled with anticipation. It might be in God's sovereignty that He allows our eyesight

to cast a dim view of the "here and now" so that we may focus our spiritual eyes on the "ever-after."

Paul, the apostle, knew what it was to suffer, and he discovered this truth in his own life: "For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18). We shouldn't allow the burdens and hardships of this life to distract or discourage us. We must keep our eyes firmly fixed on what God has promised at the end of the journey: Heaven itself.

## CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"UIHPDV HIWVL MBBY ZIDV BX CVD  
IEEVIDIUZV. GCIH JIWVL UIHPDV PMFO  
AL HCV NVCIRABD BX CPJUI NVAUML."  
— IWADI WPDBLIGI

Previous Solution: "It's spring again. I can hear the birds sing again. See the flowers start to bud. See young people fall in love." — Lou Rawls

TODAY'S CLUE: 7 equals 8

**HANDGUNS**

From page A1

state laws, from possessing a firearm before this law goes into effect, that person will still be prohibited. And if a prohibited person has a firearm, he or she can be prosecuted. Firearm permits will remain available, without fee, to anyone who wants or needs one, such as Hoosiers desiring to carry a firearm to, through or in another state that has reciprocity with Indiana.”

Indiana State Police Superintendent Doug Carter joined leaders of the state’s Fraternal Order of Police, police chiefs association and county prosecutors association in speaking out against the change.

Carter, wearing his state police uniform, stood in the back of the Senate chamber as the bill was being debated. He said after the vote that approval of the measure “does not support law enforcement – period.”

Carter, the former elected Republican sheriff in central Indiana’s Hamilton County was first appointed state police superintendent by former Gov. Mike Pence in 2013.

However, Carter on Monday issued a statement in conjunction with Holcomb’s signing statement.

“As superintendent of the Indiana State Police, I have pledged my continued commitment to Gov. Holcomb to work towards solutions enacting HEA 1296. I, like Gov. Holcomb, feel enormous responsibility for front-line law enforcement officers. I will work with law enforcement leaders across our state to make necessary changes to firearms enforcement as well as finding the best way to identify individuals who are not allowed to carry a firearm as defined by Indiana statute,” said Carter. “We will continue to encourage citizens to apply for, and maintain, a firearms permit. A permit will assist law enforcement officers and will also allow a permit holder reciprocity with other states.”

The firearms law, which will take effect July 1, will allow anyone age 18 or older to carry a handgun in public except for reasons such as having a felony conviction, facing a restraining order from a court or having a dangerous mental illness. Supporters argue the permit requirement undermines Second Amendment protections by forcing law-abiding citizens to undergo police fingerprinting and background checks.

**WACT**

From page A1

Vanderpool said non-traditional students may be defined as those attending college only part-time, working full time at 35 hours or more per week with the intention to attend school the following year, having children or dependents other than their spouse, is a single parent, having a GED and not a high school diploma and did not immediately continue their education after they graduated from high school.

Vanderpool said all applicants must establish an attended course major as of the application deadline date.

“Financial need may be considered and so will an essay response, not to exceed 500 words, addressing but not limited to such topics as, what theater means to you,

On Tuesday, Sen. Andy Zay, R-Huntington, said he supported the bill, even while calling it “tough.”

“There was a lot of debate surrounding that bill. A lot of gyrations it went through to get through the process. Certainly, we had some law enforcement that was not for it. We had others that were for it. And the broader populace at least in the district was wildly supportive of it. For me, it was an easy vote to support that. Policy-wise it was difficult and the fact that the governor signed it honestly I was a little surprised because he threw his chief law enforcement officer out in front of the committee and obviously made some big statements. I was a little surprised that the governor then turned and signed it. Happy he did. And I think that certainly meets the majority of my constituents so I think that’s a good policy to have on the books and have behind us,” said Zay. “I never dismiss when officials come and speak to the committee. I did not sit on the committee. I did not review every word of the testimony. We debated it a lot internally and on the floor. I don’t take those votes lightly. And there’s certainly merit to what was discussed. But I think at the end of the day to stand up for the constitutional rights and the will of most of my constituents it was the right thing to do.”

Rep. Craig Snow, R-Warsaw, and Rep. Dan Leonard, R-Huntington, also expressed enthusiasm for the bill on Tuesday.

“I’m glad to see the governor sign this bill into law, which strengthens Hoosier’s Second Amendment rights and supports lawful gun owners,” said Snow.

“‘Constitutional carry’ supports lawful Hoosier gun owners and I’m pleased to see the governor sign the bill into law,” said Leonard.

On the federal level, Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-Indiana, also weighed in in favor of the law.

“As a strong defender of Americans’ constitutional-ly-protected Second Amendment rights, I am glad Indiana state lawmakers took action to expand and protect Hoosiers’ right to bear arms. We must always cherish and exercise our freedoms, including the vital Second Amendment,” said Walorski. Sens. Mike Braun and Todd Young, R-Indiana, did not immediately return requests for comment as of press time.

*The Associated Press contributed to this story. Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).*

where you see yourself after graduation, how a scholarship such as this would help you achieve this goal and obstacles you may have overcome along the way,” said Vanderpool. “The scholarship committee may from time to time amend the application requirements.”

Applicants must be a legal U.S. resident, planning to enroll full time or part-time at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school in the U.S. or Washington, D.C.

For more information, email Vanderpool at [vanderpob@yahoo.com](mailto:vanderpob@yahoo.com) or call 765-661-8206; or contact board member Beth Miller by email at [beth@wabashmillers.com](mailto:beth@wabashmillers.com) or by calling 260-568-1128.

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).*

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**PRIMARY**

From page A1

to have his blessing on my campaign. He’s been a great friend over the years, and I’ve worked with him in the general assembly when he was in the [Indiana] Senate.”

Banks mentioned that Leonard’s work, particularly on the Ways and Means committee, often doesn’t make headlines as it often is focused on complex economic issues. Leonard acknowledged that some of the bills he has focused on over his tenure are “not real flashy.”

“Here’s the deal when it comes to Dan Leonard: He’s focused on a lot of very complicated issues where he is the biggest expert in the state, issues like our unemployment insurance, issues like that that nobody ever writes about because they’re not big issues that make the news, but they’re really important to our economy.”

First elected to the Indiana House of Representatives in 2002, Leonard has held



Provided by JIM BANKS

Dan Leonard and Jim Banks share a laugh while on the campaign trail.

the 50th district seat for the past two decades. This year, he faces a primary challenge from Wabash County councilmember Lorissa Sweet.

Sweet has criticized Leonard for an alleged lack of

conservatism in Indianapolis, writing on Facebook in January that voters “would be surprised how ‘liberal’ these ‘conservatives’ vote.”

Banks called Leonard “one of the most conservative leg-

islators in the statehouse” and said he “can’t imagine losing him.”

“This is the kind of nasty, negative campaigning you see this time of the year,” Banks said.

“I hope voters tune it out and recognize that we’re lucky to have a leader like Dan Leonard.”

He spoke at length about Leonard’s experience and influence in Indianapolis, including a prediction that Leonard will “be in a bigger and more influential position after the election.”

“Nobody works harder at the statehouse for our values, for issues that affect communities like Huntington and Wabash,” Banks said. “Dan Leonard has been a state legislator long enough that he’s built up a fair amount of seniority and influence. He’s a guy that other people go to for answers, and we’re very fortunate that he’s there serving on our behalf.”

*Brett Stover, Huntington Herald-Press Editor, may be reached by email at [bstover@h-online.com](mailto:bstover@h-online.com).*

**VETO**

From page A1

“fairness in K-12 sports.”

Holcomb’s decisions come after both measures faced intense opposition before being approved by the GOP-dominated legislature that embraced what has become a pair of conservative causes across the country.

The governor stayed on the sidelines as legislators debated both issues and made his decisions just before his Tuesday deadline to act.

Holcomb, on the transgender sports bill veto, also pointed to the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA), which has a policy covering transgender students wanting to play sports that match their gender identity and has said it has had no transgender girls finalize a request to play on girls team.

“The presumption of the policy laid out in HEA 1041 is that there is an existing problem in K-12 sports in Indiana that requires further state government intervention,” Holcomb said in his letter. “It implies that the goals of consistency and fairness in competitive female sports are not currently being met. After thorough review, I find no evidence to support either claim even if I support the effort overall.”

Indiana lawmakers can override the governor’s veto with simple majorities in both the House and Senate. A veto override vote could happen as soon as May 24, which legislative leaders have scheduled as a tentative one-day meeting.

The Indiana law would prohibit K-12 students who were born male but who identify as female from participating in a sport or on an athletic team that is designated for women or girls. But it wouldn’t prevent students who identify as female or transgender men from playing on men’s sports teams.

Eleven other Republican-led states have adopted such laws that political observers describe as a classic “wedge issue” to motivate conservative supporters after the governors in Iowa and South Dakota signed their bans in recent weeks.

Holcomb’s veto comes seven years after Indiana faced a national uproar over a religious objections law signed by then-Gov. Mike Pence

which opponents maintained could be used to discriminate against gays and lesbians. The Republican-dominated Legislature quickly made revisions blocking its use as a legal defense for refusing to provide services and preventing the law from overriding local ordinances with LGBT protections.

Democrats argued Republican lawmakers were following a national conservative “culture war” with the transgender girls sports ban.

“Signing House Bill 1041 into law would have put the lives of our children in jeopardy,” state Democratic Party Chairman Mike Schmuhl said. “However, this unnecessary debate has set a tone with kids that being transgender means something is wrong with them.”

On Tuesday, Sen. Andy Zay, R-Huntington, said he was dismayed by Holcomb’s veto.

“It’s just incredible that we can’t advance the protection of the participation of our female athletes and women in the state. Though it might not have been perfect which is what I think he put out in his statement. I think it was a huge step forward. And a lot of the legislation is not perfect and I think it’s something that should be taken care of and worked out in the next session,” said Zay.

Zay said even though the IHSAA had set up guidelines already, “this stuff is so fast-moving you’ve got to get out ahead of that.”

On Thursday, Lia Thomas took control in the final 100 yards of the 500-yard freestyle to make history Thursday as the first transgender woman to win an NCAA swimming championship. Thomas, the University of Pennsylvania senior who entered the NCAA women’s swimming and diving championships as the top seed, had a season-best time of 4 minutes, 33.24 seconds.

Zay said this represented a “travesty” and characterized Thomas as “a male participating in female sports getting national accolades and awards.”

“It’s very real. And from that vantage point, I have a son that participates in the training of female athletes and the point of him doing that is to make them stronger to compete. And he can compete at the highest level with them and he would not

be the same basketball player against men,” said Zay. “So the fact that we’re shading those lines and crossing those lines is tragic. And having said that there’s obviously the awareness that there is some crossover. We have some teams where females have crossed over and kicked the football for men’s sports there. But it’s so much different in these individual sports when you look at swimming, running and the physique of men and how they are noticeably stronger, medically stronger than women. It’s just not right that they should be able to participate in those classes and receive awards and accolades for simply having a physical advantage.”

Also on Tuesday, Rep. Craig Snow, R-Warsaw, and Rep. Dan Leonard, R-Huntington, similarly expressed their dismay at Holcomb’s veto.

“As a father of two grown daughters who played sports, I believe it’s critical our female athletes have every opportunity to succeed on the playing field. While boys and girls are equal, they each have certain biological advantages that can’t be denied. This law strengthens Title IX, which ensures female athletes have an equal opportunity in sports. I look forward to returning to the Statehouse on May 24 and

voting to override the governor’s veto,” said Snow.

“The goal of HEA 1041 is to protect the integrity of girls’ sports in Indiana. I’m disappointed in the governor’s decision to veto this bill, and I support House Speaker Todd Huston’s call for lawmakers to return to the Statehouse in May for a vote to override it,” said Leonard.

On the federal level, Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-Indiana, and Sen. Mike Braun, R-Indiana, also weighed in in favor of the vetoed bill.

“I understand firsthand the importance of protecting athletic opportunities for girls and women,” said Walorski. “I’m disappointed Gov. Holcomb vetoed key protections for girls and women’s sports in Indiana.”

“Girls’ sports should be for girls, and allowing biological males to compete with them robs female athletes of a chance to compete and win. I’m disappointed Gov. Holcomb vetoed a bill to make this law in Indiana, and I support a veto override to protect women’s athletics,” said Braun.

Sen. Todd Young, R-Indiana, did not immediately return a request for comment as of press time.

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).*

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BABY

From page A1

could not release any additional information about the child.

“To ensure the safety and privacy of the baby and her parents, and to remain consistent with ongoing guidance from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, no addi-

tional information will be provided about this child,” said Megison.

In response to a Plain Dealer request, public relations manager Tami Brigle said they followed these

policies due to safety.

“Parkview Health has chosen to follow guidance from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, which recommends against the release of most

types of information in order to protect the privacy of an infant and the family,” said Brigle. “If a parent would want to share more information publicly, they can do so of their own accord

once they leave the hospital. However, Parkview won’t facilitate sharing details.”

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.*

PULSE

From page A1

11 a.m. Wednesdays, March 23 and April 27 at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15; and noon Wednesday, April 13 at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester. For more information, visit [www.curehunger.org](http://www.curehunger.org), [classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182](http://classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182) or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

Salamonie Native Plant ID Workshop planned for Saturday

Learn how to ID native plants during all seasons at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 26 at Salamonie’s Interpretive Center, 3691 S. New Holland Road, Andrews. The workshop is expected to last approximately three hours. Speaker Jake Wyatt will share his knowledge of native plant species. Wyatt, an Indiana Master Naturalist, is a Huntington County native whose hobby and passion for native versus ornamental species covers many years. We will have an introductory presentation on using a dichotomous key, especially during the winter months and learn why supporting native plants is important in today’s environment. There will be hands-on learning as we view native plants in their outdoors in their natural habitats. Dress for the weather, there will be some walking to locate plants. There will also be caravanning to locations within Lost Bridge West. Bring a sack lunch or snack. The cost is \$10 per person. Space is limited, and advanced registration is required by calling 260-468-2127. For more information, visit <https://on.IN.gov/salamonielake> or [dnr.IN.gov](mailto:dnr.IN.gov).

Democratic senatorial candidate to visit Wabash

The only remaining Democratic primary candidate for this year’s U.S. Senate race in Indiana will soon be visiting Wabash. The Wa-

bash County Democratic Party will be hosting Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr. for a meet and greet at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 30, in the guest room at Wings Etc., 1439 N. Cass St., with a Zoom option available.

Honeywell House hosts journeys in South Asia

On Thursday, March 31, the Honeywell House will host speaker Ken Perkins who will share inspirational stories of his agricultural influence in South Asia. He has worked with a small Laotian farm for 17 years, conducted business training in Nepal and Myanmar, and served on a trade mission to Taiwan, Japan and South Korea. He recently became an advisor on raising pigs to a missionary in Tanzania. The event will begin at 7 p.m. The event is free, but with limited capacity, reservations are required to guarantee seating. For more information, visit [honeywellarts.org](http://honeywellarts.org).

Paradise Spring Board offers scholarships to local high school seniors

The Paradise Spring Board has announced they will again be offering scholarships to five Wabash County seniors. Each scholarship is worth \$1,000 per student. For this year’s scholarship, “high school seniors are invited to research and write an essay about the railroad hub at Paradise Spring Historical Park and how the railroad still impacts us today.” Essay packets have been delivered to all public schools in the county or can be requested by email at [ungerdeanna@gmail.com](mailto:ungerdeanna@gmail.com). Winners will be selected from the county schools plus one from the home-schooled, online or alternate school student groups. To receive the scholarship, the selected winners are also required to present their essays either in person or via video to be used for future programming. Completed essays and cover letters should be returned by Friday, April 1 by mail to Paradise Spring Board, P.O. Box 353, Wabash, IN 46992. For more information, call 260-571-2879.

Manchester Values, Ideas and the Arts series continues

Presentations are at 11 a.m. Mondays in Cordier Auditorium on the North Manchester campus unless otherwise noted. All except the “Spaces” concert are free and open to the public. Masks and social distancing are required. Other presentations will also be live-streamed on the Manchester Facebook page. Check the schedule at [www.manchester.edu/academics/VIA](http://www.manchester.edu/academics/VIA) for updates. April 4 – “Manchester and the United Nations: The Legacy of Andrew Cordier” by Manchester seniors Christopher Carroll and Omar Gadzhiev. April 11 – In “CommuniKate: Artalive,” Kate Billingsley offers a comic performance. April 18 – Alicia Smith presents “Environmental Justice & Community Democracy – BIPOC & Beyond.” April 25 – Mary Miller, CEO and owner of JANCOA Janitorial Services, will speak in “Dream Big.” May 2 – “Trailblazers: Honoring Manchester’s First Black Students” is the keynote address on the day Manchester is naming the Academic Center in honor of siblings Martha and Joseph Cunningham. May 9 – Manchester seniors will talk about their senior honors theses. May 15 at 3 p.m. in Cordier – Violist Derek Reeves performs the world premiere of “Spaces,” a concerto composed for him by Professor Debra Lynn, director of choral organizations and vocal studies at Manchester.

‘Hometown Heroes’ celebrates the music of Indiana and Missouri

Wabash’s own Kim Grogg Marin returns to her hometown for a performance in “Hometown Heroes” at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 6 at the Honeywell Center, as she brings a tribute to Indiana composers to Northeast Indiana. This cabaret show originating out of New York City will feature music associated with the home states of Wabash native Kim Grogg Marin and Kansas City native Lennie Watts, including

classic composers like Cole Porter and Hoagy Carmichael. Throughout their performance, they will weave their story through the music with accompanist Stephen Ray Watkins. All three performers are award-winning musicians for cabaret in New York City.

Salamonie Forest Preschool underway

Preschool-age children and their adults are invited to Salamonie Forest Preschool through May for one Tuesday a month or two Tuesdays a month from 9 a.m. to noon at Salamonie Interpretive Center, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews, in Lost Bridge West State Recreation Area. Classes for the once-a-month option will be held Tuesdays, April 12 and May 3. Classes for the second meeting time each month will also be held Tuesdays, April 26 and May 17. Advance registration is required. Register by calling 260-468-2127. For more information, visit [dnr.IN.gov/uwis](http://dnr.IN.gov/uwis) or [facebook.com/upperwabash](https://facebook.com/upperwabash).

GWC investors invited to an exclusive event with local legislators

Grow Wabash County (GWC) would like to extend an invitation to all of its current investors to attend an exclusive Legislative Wrap-Up event with local legislators and the Regional Chamber of Northeast Indiana at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 13, in the Grow Wabash County conference room, 214 S. Wabash St. This is event is free and exclusively reserved for Grow Wabash County investors. Registration for this event can be found by visiting [members.growwabashcounty.com/events/calendar/](http://members.growwabashcounty.com/events/calendar/) or by emailing at [marketing@growwabashcounty.com](mailto:marketing@growwabashcounty.com) or calling 260-563-5258. The guest speakers for this event will be Rep. Craig Snow, R-Warsaw, Sen. Andy Zay, R-Huntington, and Regional Chamber of Northeast Indiana president and CEO Bill Konyha. During this in-person event, each guest will have a chance to discuss the work they are

doing on behalf of our local business and citizens’ needs and interests before the floor is opened up for questions. If any investor has questions for the guests, they will be encouraged to ask them during the event, or they can be sent ahead of time by email.

Grow Wabash County to celebrate Wabash County’s top graduates

Grow Wabash County (GWC) will recognize some of Wabash County’s top academic students at the 2022 Honor Student Luncheon on Thursday, April 14. This year’s luncheon will recognize 68 Wabash County seniors with career interests ranging from nursing and health care to agribusiness, engineering and the arts. The luncheon will once again host a panel of industry professionals that will provide insight and advice to the students about starting their careers and why they should consider Wabash County when it comes time to choose where they want to lay down roots and begin their professional careers. Local businesses, colleges, universities and employers interested in sponsoring students and showing your support for the next generation of talent in Wabash County can do so by visiting [www.growwabashcounty.com/events/calendar](http://www.growwabashcounty.com/events/calendar), emailing [marketing@growwabashcounty.com](mailto:marketing@growwabashcounty.com) or calling 260-563-5258.

Salamonie ‘Tweens Among the Trees’ Forest School underway

Children ages 6 to 13 are invited to Salamonie Forest School at 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. The class will be offered one Wednesday a month from 9 a.m. to noon at Salamonie Interpretive Center in Lost Bridge West State Recreation Area, Andrews. Classes will be held on Wednesday, April 20. Advance registration is required. Limited space is available. Register by calling 260-468-2127. For more information, visit [dnr.IN.gov/uwis](http://dnr.IN.gov/uwis) or [facebook.com/upperwabash](https://facebook.com/upperwabash).



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## Wabash varsity boys raise ceiling with successful '22 season

The Apaches ended their season winning five of their final seven games

By **CLAY MAXFIELD**  
Wabash Plain Dealer  
Freelance Reporter

For opposing teams looking over next season's schedule, Wabash will be one that will be circled, underlined and marked with an asterisk as the Apaches surprised foes and put together a 14-9 year while shooting 46 percent from the field along with 43 percent from three-point range.

The Apaches ended their season winning five of their final seven games while marking their only losses to no. 11 in Class 3A Peru as well as a loss to Adams Central in their opening round of sectional play.

While Wabash may not have finished their postseason off with the goals they had in mind, head coach Paul Wright is happy with the steps his young roster took throughout the year.

"When the season's over and you kind of sit and think about it, I thought we had a really good year this year," Wright said. "We had a lot of young players that we expected a lot out of this year and I thought they all did a really good

job of accepting that challenge."

"We had a great year and I don't think there were some schools that thought we would get to 14 this year because of the youth but the kids just did a really good job of getting better every week."

From mid-December to the first week of February, Wabash rolled through their schedule with an 8-1 record while being led by three current sophomores who averaged double-digit figures in scoring including Trevor Daughtry (16.5 ppg), Izaak Wright (14.3 ppg) and Grant Ford (12 ppg).

The three aforementioned scorers all shot 40 percent or higher from three-point land including Ford who led the team with 49 percent and Wright with 47 percent. All three attempted over 110 threes in the '22 season.

Wabash lost their opening round of sectional play to Adams Central, 66-51.

"I thought our guys came out and showed their youth a little bit and you play a good team like Adams Central, they're going to take advantage of it. They really did in the first quarter. ... I just thought the game, we had a lot of guys out there who tried to do way too much offensively and defensively, which that's not

See **APACHES**, page B8



Photo by Clay Maxfield / Plain Dealer

Southwood went on to win the Wabash County Tournament with victories over Northfield and Wabash.

## Southwood's varsity boys season highlighted with sectional win

Defensively, Knights held teams to 59.2 points per game, averaged nearly 15 steals a game

By **CLAY MAXFIELD**  
Wabash Plain Dealer Freelance Reporter

After a season in which the Southwood varsity boy's basketball team began the season losing four of their first five, the Knights bounced back with a 14-12 season overall that was underlined with their second sectional title in a row after a 58-57 defeat of Lakeland Christian.

Southwood knocked off Northfield and North Miami in their first two rounds of sectional play. The Knights' season concluded with a loss to eventual regional champ, Lafayette Central Catholic with a final of 75-56.

For Southwood head coach John Burrus, the traction that the Knights made in the back half of their season was what led to their postseason success.

"It was a lot like last year, we played our best probably in the last month," Burrus said. "I think the momentum we had really helped us throughout the

sectional. We got three good shots from three good teams. ... Getting through that sectional was not easy this year."

While graduating one senior in Derrick Smith (7.4 ppg), the Knights look to be loaded next season as well with Cole Winer, Dylan Stout, Jason Oprisek and Nathan Lehner returning for their senior seasons. The four aforementioned juniors made up over 78 percent of the Knights' current scoring load this past season.

"It's really a good two-year deal for us because these guys were able to learn how to play varsity. Cole Winer and Jason Oprisek, this is their third year of varsity but the rest, this is their first time, full-time varsity players. ... We feel very confident about next year and what we're going to try to accomplish as those guys are seniors," Burrus said.

With a four-win streak that began in the middle of December, Southwood went on to win the Wabash County Tournament with victories over Northfield and Wabash while beginning 2022 with a rout over Mississinewa.

From that point, Southwood's season ebbed and flowed with wins and losses but stayed the course as they prepped for a deep postseason run.

The ability to hold teams in check on the defensive end proved to be one of the biggest catalysts to Southwood's success, something that they've taken pride in for years.

"I think that's been kind of something that we really built at Southwood," Burrus said. "We're always in the state leaders in steals and turning over teams. ... Our system of defense helped and kids have been playing it. Kids have grown and matured into it."

Defensively, Southwood held teams to 59.2 points per game and averaged nearly 15 steals a game.

Moving forward, Burrus and the Knights are anticipating a summer offseason that will hold vast amounts of improvement for a Southwood team that is looking to push their way to the front of the pack in the Three Rivers Conference.

"I think we're down the road as far as knowing each other. We've got a connection between the coaches and the players and then the players have a connection within their group. ... We're excited just to get back with them and get further down the road."

Clay Maxfield, Wabash Plain Dealer freelance reporter, may be reached by email at [sports@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:sports@wabashplaindealer.com).



Photo by Clay Maxfield / Plain Dealer

Sophomore Izaak Wright averaged 14.3 points per game.

## Fort Wayne Komets game to celebrate Wabash County

Dedicated community night set for Friday, April 8

STAFF REPORT

Wabash County "will be the MVP" at the Fort Wayne Komets game on Friday, April 8 during Wabash County Night, according to project manager for marketing and events Chelsea Boulrisse.

Boulrisse said as one of the Komets' dedicated "community nights," hockey fans are encouraged to show up and celebrate not only the Komets as they take on the Toledo Walleye but Wabash County "and all of the great things happening in the community."

"Komets Night is always a great time for Wabash County to come out and enjoy some hockey while also supporting their community," said Grow Wabash County CEO and president Keith Gillenwater. "It's a great way to show the rest of northeast Indiana the great things happening in Wabash County."

The game will feature the vocal talents of Mackenzie Sheridan, a Wabash native and vocal performance major at Manchester University, singing the National Anthem. Other events throughout the evening will celebrate the people and businesses of Wabash County, including Zamboni rides, the air siren to pump up the crowd and more.

Wabash County Night at the Komets will be on Friday, April 8, at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Avenue, Fort Wayne. Game time is 8 p.m.

In addition to being in the spotlight during the game, Wabash County businesses and community members can get into the game for a reduced price. While supplies last, tickets may be purchased for \$17 per ticket by visiting [www.fevome/wabashnight](http://www.fevome/wabashnight) or by emailing [mitch@komets.com](mailto:mitch@komets.com) or by calling 260-482-6812.

Wabash County businesses who want to rent out booth space for game day can do so by emailing [mitch@komets.com](mailto:mitch@komets.com)

Norse lost their first-round sectional game to eventual sectional champ Southwood

By **CLAY MAXFIELD**  
Wabash Plain Dealer Freelance Reporter

While Northfield may have finished the season with a 5-18 record, the Norse have only scratched the surface on what they can achieve under first-year head coach Rex Reimer.

"I felt like by the end of the season, we improved tremendously," Reimer said. "I think the kids bought into my coaching style and what we wanted to do defensively and I'm really looking forward to this offseason and keeping a basketball in these guys' hands."

The Norse lost their first-round sectional bout to eventual sectional champ Southwood but it didn't come without a battle as Northfield used a 22 point second half to battle back from a half-time deficit but ultimately fell, 56-50.

"I liked how we started. ... There was just a two-minute stretch in the second quarter where we just kind of fell apart offensively and just had some silly turnovers. Uncharacteristic, we had worked on it all week of just not throwing the ball away. ... It was just that two-minute stretch we just let Southwood climb back in and could never get that hump after halftime," he said.

Northfield averaged 46.2 points per game as a team this season while shooting nearly 40 percent from the field.

After starting their season winning two of their first four, Northfield hit a rut where they lost four straight while losing their starting point guard and leading scorer Dillon Tomlinson.

From that point moving forward, the Norse found ways to work other players into their floor general role, grooming talent for the next year as they



Photo by Clay Maxfield / Plain Dealer

After starting their season winning two of four, Northfield hit a rut where they lost four straight while losing their starting point guard and leading scorer Dillon Tomlinson.

graduate just two seniors while bringing back three juniors and six seniors including Tomlinson.

Defensively, Northfield took the biggest jump throughout their season with Reimer.

"I think defensively our kids started to get our concepts defensively and by the time sectional came around, I felt really good. I told the kids, 'if we beat Southwood in sectional, we'll win this thing.'

We gave it a good effort, just fell short on the offensive end," Reimer said.

However, for the Norse to reach their ceiling, their time spent in the gym this offseason will revolve heavily around honing their offensive skill.

"I think this offseason, kids really need to start really working on their shooting and you're gonna see a different beast come next winter and fall. We're gonna be competitive."



Andrew Marienko / AP

A car destroyed by shelling is seen in a street in Kharkiv, Ukraine, on Tuesday.

# Ukraine thwarts Russian advances

## Fight rages for Mariupol

By NEBI QENA and CARA ANNA  
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian forces fought off continuing Russian efforts to occupy Mariupol and claimed to have retaken a strategic suburb of Kyiv on Tuesday, mounting a defense so dogged that it is stoking fears Russia’s Vladimir Putin will escalate the war to new heights.

“Putin’s back is against the wall,” said U.S. President Joe Biden, who is heading to Europe this week to meet with allies. “And the more his back is against the wall, the greater the severity of the tactics he may employ.”

Biden reiterated accusations that Putin is considering resorting to using chemical or biological weapons, though Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said the U.S. has seen no evidence to suggest that such an escalation is imminent.

The warnings came as attacks continued in and around Kyiv and Mariupol, and people escaped the battered and besieged port city.

The hands of one exhausted Mariupol survivor were shaking as she arrived by train in the western city of Lviv.

“There’s no connection with the world. We couldn’t ask for help,” said Julia Krytska, who was helped by volunteers to make it out with her husband and son. “People don’t even have water there.”

Explosions and bursts of gunfire shook Kyiv, and heavy artillery fire could be heard from the northwest, where Russia has sought to encircle and capture several of the capital’s suburban areas.

Early Tuesday, Ukrainian troops drove Russian forces

from the Kyiv suburb of Makariv after a fierce battle, Ukraine’s Defense Ministry said. The regained territory allowed Ukrainian forces to retake control of a key highway and block Russian troops from surrounding Kyiv from the northwest.

Still, the Defense Ministry said Russian forces partially took other northwest suburbs, Bucha, Hostomel and Irpin, some of which have been under attack almost since Russia invaded nearly a month ago.

A Western official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss military assessments, said Ukrainian resistance has brought much of Russia’s advance to a halt but has not sent Moscow’s forces into retreat.

Western officials say Russian forces are facing serious shortages of food, fuel and cold weather gear, leaving some soldiers suffering from frostbite. Ukrainians have reported hungry soldiers looting stores and homes for food.

The invasion has driven more than 10 million people from their homes, almost a quarter of Ukraine’s population, according to the United Nations.

Thousands of civilians are believed to have died. Estimates of Russian military casualties vary widely, but even conservative figures by Western officials are in the low thousands.

On Monday, Russia’s pro-Kremlin Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper, citing the Defense Ministry, reported that almost 10,000 Russian soldiers had been killed. The report was quickly removed, and the newspaper blamed hackers. The Kremlin refused to comment. The Western official said the figure is “a reasonable estimate.”

Facing unexpectedly stiff resistance that has left the bulk of Moscow’s ground forces miles from the center of Kyiv, Putin’s troops are in-

creasingly concentrating their air power and artillery on Ukraine’s cities and civilians.

Talks to end the fighting have continued by video. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said he would be prepared to consider waiving any bid by Ukraine to join NATO – a key Russian demand – in exchange for a cease-fire, the withdrawal of Russian troops and a guarantee of Ukraine’s security.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he saw progress in the talks.

“From my outreach with various actors, elements of diplomatic progress are coming into view on several key issues,” and the gains are enough to end hostilities now, he said. He gave no details.

The Western official, though, said that there were no signs Moscow was ready to compromise.

In the last update from Mariupol officials, they said March 15 that at least 2,300 people had died in the siege. But there are fears the toll could be much higher. Air strikes over the past week devastated a theater and an art school where many civilians were taking shelter.

Thousands have managed to flee Mariupol, where the bombardment has cut off electricity, water and food supplies and severed communication with the outside world. The city council said Tuesday that more than 1,100 people who had escaped the siege were in a convoy of buses heading to a city northwest of Mariupol.

But the Red Cross said a humanitarian aid convoy trying to reach the city with desperately needed supplies still had not been able to enter.

Perched on the Sea of Azov, Mariupol is a crucial port for Ukraine and lies along a stretch of territory between Russia and Crimea. The siege has cut the city off from the sea and allowed Russia to establish a land corridor to Crimea.

But it’s not clear how much of the city Russia holds, with fleeing residents saying fighting continues street by street.

A senior U.S. defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity to give the Pentagon’s assessment, said Russian ships in the Sea of Azov were shelling Mariupol. The official said there were about seven Russian ships in that area, including a minesweeper and a couple of landing vessels.

Ukraine’s Defense Ministry said that troops defending the city had destroyed a Russian patrol boat and electronic warfare complex. Britain’s Defense Ministry said Ukrainian forces “continue to repulse Russian attempts to occupy” Mariupol.

Those who have made it out of Mariupol told of a devastated city.

“They bombed us for the past 20 days,” said 39-year-old Viktoriya Totsen, who fled into Poland. “During the last five days the planes were flying over us every five seconds and dropped bombs everywhere – on residential buildings, kindergartens, art schools, everywhere.”

Beyond the terrible human toll, the war has shaken the post-Cold War global security consensus, imperiled the world supply of key crops, and raised worries it could set off a nuclear accident.

Wildfires broke out near the decommissioned Chernobyl nuclear power plant, but Ukraine’s natural resources minister said the flames had been extinguished and radiation was within normal levels. Chernobyl in 1986 was the scene of the world’s worst nuclear disaster.

As part of a series of addresses to foreign legislatures, Zelenskyy urged Italian lawmakers to strengthen sanctions against Moscow, noting many wealthy Russians have homes in the country.

“Don’t be a resort for murderers,” he said from Kyiv.

# St. Jude welcomes first Ukraine child cancer patients

By KIMBERLEE KRUESI  
Associated Press

Four Ukrainian children with cancer and their families arrived Tuesday at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, marking the first hospital in the U.S. to receive patients from Ukraine, officials announced.

According to St. Jude, the families travelled aboard a U.S. government medical transport aircraft from Krakow, Poland. Some of the children held white unicorn stuffed animals and Ukrainian flags as they walked into the hospital, according to video provided by St. Jude.

“Our promise to children with catastrophic diseases extends around the globe, and we are honored to play a part in helping these families move to safety to continue their children’s treatment,” St. Jude President and CEO James R. Downing said in a statement.

More than 400 Ukrainian

children with cancer have been evacuated to a clinic in Poland. Doctors are rapidly working to place them in one of some 200 hospitals in 28 countries. Evacuations began immediately after Russia attacked Ukraine on Feb. 24 and is a joint effort of St. Jude, the Polish Society of Pediatric Oncology and Hematology, Poland’s Fundacja Herosi (Heroes Foundation), and Tabletochki, a Ukrainian charity that advocates for children with cancer.

“While there is more work ahead, we are committed to doing as much as we can as fast as swiftly as possible,” said Carlos Rodriguez-Galindo, director of St. Jude Global.

The young patients who arrived in Memphis range from nine months to nine years in age. They will receive complex medical care, as well as trauma-informed psychosocial therapy. St. Jude is also developing school curriculum for the patients and their siblings.

# Biden to announce new Russia sanctions while in Brussels

By AAMER MADHANI  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden plans to announce new sanctions against Russia on Thursday while in Brussels for meetings with NATO and European allies, according to a top national security aide.

Biden, who will take part in a special meeting of NATO and address the European Council summit, is also expected to underscore efforts to enforce the avalanche of existing sanctions already announced by the U.S. and allies.

“He will join our partners in imposing further sanctions on Russia and tightening the existing sanctions to crack down on evasion and to ensure robust enforcement,” said White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan, who declined to further preview new sanctions the president will announce.

Biden is traveling to Brussels and Poland – which has received more than 2 million Ukrainian refugees who have fled since the Feb. 24 invasion – looking to press for continued unity among Western allies as Russia presses on with its brutal invasion of Ukraine.

In Poland, Biden will meet with Polish President Andrzej Duda, who has requested further U.S. aid and a stepped up military pres-

ence on NATO’s eastern flank as the war grinds on. The U.S. has already more than doubled its regular troop presence of more than 4,000 U.S. troops. Currently, there are about 10,000 U.S. troops in Poland.

Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania have also called for a greater NATO or U.S. military presence in recent weeks.

Sullivan suggested that could be coming soon as Biden plans to have talks “on longer term adjustments to NATO force posture on the eastern flank.”

“We feel that it is the right place for him to go to be able to see troops, to be able to see humanitarian experts and to be able to meet with a frontline and very vulnerable ally,” Sullivan said of Biden’s visit to Poland.

Talks on troop adjustments are already underway. Last week, at NATO’s Brussels headquarters, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and his counterparts weighed what defenses to set up on the organization’s eastern flank, from Estonia in the north through Latvia, Lithuania and Poland down to Bulgaria and Romania on the Black Sea.

The aim is to deter President Vladimir Putin from ordering an invasion of any of the 30 allies; not just for the duration of this war but for the next 5-10 years.



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# 2021 School Corporation Annual Performance Report (APR)

## General Explanations

The APR is a report on the performance of schools and school corporations (districts) in your area. The goal is to provide information regarding the progress schools are making to help students become college-and-career ready. Where possible, this report contains three years of data to show trends – not just this year’s results. In addition, the State Average is also shown for comparison purposes. There are additional indicators that are available on the Indiana Department of Education’s Web site ([inview.doe.in.gov](http://inview.doe.in.gov)), including data broken out by different student subgroups, such as race, gender, income level and special education.

Indiana educators and citizens have developed higher academic standards for all students. These standards are necessary to prepare Indiana students to be successful in life, whether they go directly to higher education or to the workplace. For high schools, you will see graduation rates and the percentage of graduates who plan to go on to college.

Other important data are provided, such as average attendance rates and indicators of school safety, including expulsions and suspensions. Also included is information about your school corporation, such as how much is spent, on average, for each student; how much teachers are paid; and the percentage of corporation students who are in special education classes or gifted and talented classes.

COVID-19 NOTE: Due to COVID-19, ILEARN/ISTEP assessments were not administered during the 2019-2020 school year.

## Definitions (in the order found on the report)

Corporation Level & General School Data	
A-F Accountability Grade	Grade calculated by the IDOE per 511 IAC 6.2-6 and officially assigned by the State Board of Education. For 2018-19, Schools and Corporations were assigned the better of their 2017-18 grade or the 2018-19 calculated grade. Grade were not assigned for 2019-20 due to COVID-19.
Student Enrollment	Number of students enrolled on October 1 of the school year. <b>Note: Counts for Membership funding purposes are taken on a different day and may differ.</b>
Non-Waiver Grad Rate	For 2020-21, the percentage of students who entered Grade 9 in Fall 2018 and graduated in four years or less without a waiver
College and Career Readiness Rate	The percentage of 2018 four year graduates who passed an Advanced Placement test, passed an International Baccalaureate test, received 3 hours of Dual Credit, or received an Industry Certification. <b>Note: These data are not available for the 2021 cohort at time of publication. It was not calculated in 2020 as part of the suspension of A-F Grades.</b>
Career and Technical Diplomas	Core 40 with Technical Honors Diplomas
Certified Teachers	Teachers certified to teach as reported by School Corporation (includes guidance counselors and other non-Administrator staff)
Teacher Salary Range	Salary range is calculated by reviewing the salaries for teachers as provided by the School Corporation. Teachers must be reported at 100% for 180-195 days
Students in Special Education	Students (including non-public Students) who are receiving special education services
Students in Gifted and Talented Education	Percentage of students enrolled in gifted and talented education programs as defined locally
Percent of Instruction Delivered Through Career and Technical Education	Percentage of total instructional hours delivered through vocational education classes
Students Receiving Free or Reduced Price Lunches	Students who receive free or reduced price lunches due to family income level
Limited English Proficiency Students	Students whose inability to communicate English prevents them from participating fully in a standard educational program
Foster Care Students	Students who are foster care students
Alternative Education	Students enrolled and receiving instruction for at least 10 days in an approved alternative education program
Intra District Mobility	Percentage of students who moved from one school to another in the same school corporation

Corporation Level & General School Data	
Inter District Mobility	Percentage of student who moved from one school to another in a different school corporation
Pupil Enrollment to Certified Employee Ratio	Number of Students per Certified Employees as reported by the School Corporation
Attendance Rate	Average attendance rate for students

High School Data	
ISTEP+	Grade 10 exam for high school graduation. Pass rates for Grade 10 ISTEP are for first time attempts only.
Career and Technical Programs	Programs administered through the Department of Workforce Development that often result in an Industry Certification
International Baccalaureate	Program of Study offered by some authorized schools that may result in a student receiving a specialized diploma called an International Baccalaureate Diploma. More information can be found at <a href="http://www.ibo.org">www.ibo.org</a>
Core 40	Basic High school graduation requirements More information on the graduation requirements and types of diplomas can be found at <a href="http://www.doe.in.gov/student-services/student-assistance/academic-guidance">http://www.doe.in.gov/student-services/student-assistance/academic-guidance</a>
Core 40 with Honors diploma	Either Core 40 with Academic Honors or Core 40 with Technical Honors
Graduation Rate	For 2020-21, the percentage of students who entered Grade 9 in Fall 2018 and graduated in four years or less.

Elementary/Middle School Data	
ILEARN	Grade specific exam given to all students. All students in Grades 3-8 are tested annually in Math and English/Language Arts. Students in grades 4 and 6 are also tested in Science. Students in grades 5 are also tested in Social Studies.
IREAD	Exam given to all students in grade 3 to test reading proficiency.

## Contact:

If you have any questions about this information, you should contact your local school corporation or contact the Department of Education at 317-234-1332 or by e-mail at [datarequests@doe.in.gov](mailto:datarequests@doe.in.gov).

The goals for the Metropolitan School District of Wabash County are as follows:

1. Maintain an Education Fund balance that is equivalent or better than 3 months of expenses, while increasing pay, benefits, and programming needs.
2. Maintain an Operation Fund balance that is equivalent or better than 3 months of expenses, while increasing pay, benefits, and improving building needs.
3. Increase and Maintain Rainy Day Fund to 10% of Education and Operations Fund Budget.

**MSD Wabash County Schools**  
2021 Annual Performance Report

MSD Wabash County Schools, Wabash 8050					
Indicator	Corporation Results				State
	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	'20-'21	Total
A-F Accountability Grade	B	B	B	N/A	
Student Enrollment	2,172	2,116	2,159	2,096	1,112,611
Non-Waiver Grad Rate	68.8	53.6	64.8	47.8	79.11
Percentage of Career and Technical Diplomas	3.3	5.1	1.9	5.1	9.2
Number of Certified Teachers	131	126	128	132	60,992
Teacher Salary Range - Minimum	\$26,930	\$34,500	\$35,410	\$30,701	\$36,488.26
Teacher Salary Range - Maximum	\$60,700	\$60,800	\$62,300	\$63,800	\$68,273.96
Number of Students in Special Education	336	359	350	334	179,000
Percent of Students in Special Education	15.5	17.0	16.2	15.9	16.7
Number of Students in Gifted and Talented Education	211	175	154	136	127,286
Percent of Students in Gifted and Talented Education	9.7	8.3	7.2	6.5	12.3
Number of Students Receiving Free or Reduced Lunches	1,032	1,010	997	1,017	510,751
Percent of Students Receiving Free or Reduced Price Lunches	47.5	47.7	46.2	48.5	47.0
Number of Limited English Proficiency Students	14	15	16	9	73,112
Percent of Limited English Proficiency Students	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.4	6.6
Percent of Students in Foster Care	2.6	6.38	6.2	5.7	1.65
Number of Students in Career and Technical Program	503	460	473	342	192,951
Percentage of Students in Career and Technical Program	23.16	21.7	21.9	16.3	22.4
Intra District Mobility	0.8	1.4	0.8	0.5	0
Inter District Mobility	17.9	20.5	19.2	18.3	0
Graduation Rate	85.1	74.0	73.7	72.7	87.1
Number of Incidents of Restraint	13	3	2	3	5,702
Number of Incidents of Restraint Involving a School Resource Officer	0	0	0	0	324
Number of Incidents of Seclusion	0	0	0	0	5,457
Number of Incidents of Seclusion Involving a School Resource Officer	0	0	0	0	284

Corporation Goals for Expenditure Categories in Indiana Code 20-42.5-3-5

Northfield Jr-Sr High School, Wabash 8651					
Indicator	School Results				State
	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	'20-'21	Total
A-F Accountability Grade	B	B	B	N/A	
Student Enrollment	451	433	427	418	1,112,611
Non-Waiver Grad Rate	85.33	93.65	94.55	91.30	79.11
College and Career Readiness Rate	82.20	88.7	N/A	N/A	
Number of Certified Teachers	33	30	30	38	60,992
Number of Students in Career and Technical Program	203	176	186	167	192,951
Percentage of Students in Career and Technical Program	45.01	0	0	40.0	22.4
* Grade 7 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	41.7	35.5	N/A	33.3	30.5
* Grade 7 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	58.3	34.2	N/A	27.3	41.1
* Grade 8 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	48.6	38.1	N/A	25.7	27.8
* Grade 8 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	52.9	45.3	N/A	31.1	43.9
* Grade 10 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	23.5	32.9	N/A	30.8	
* Grade 10 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	44.1	55.3	N/A	52.8	
* Grade 10 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Science Standard	70.8	0	N/A	34.7	31.8
Percent of Graduates Granted Waivers	12.3	4.8	0.00	4.5	9.1
SAT Average Score for Graduating Class	N/A	1091	0	1083	1078
Percent of graduates receiving Academic Honors Diploma	0	0	0	48.5	39.6
Number of graduates receiving Core 40 Diploma	53	50	43	59	64648
Percent of 12th Graders Taking SAT	N/A	32.3		44.7	22.0
Percent Core 40 with Honors Diploma	28.8	40.3	26.9	48.5	39.6
Percent Core 40 Diploma	72.6	80.6	82.7	89.4	90.1
Pupil Enrollment to Certified Employee Ratio	11.8	11.6	11.4	9.9	12.7
Graduation Rate	97.3	98.4	94.5	95.7	87.1
Attendance Rate	94.4	95.7	96.1	93.9	93.3

\* In 2014-15 Indiana transitioned to new, more rigorous college-and-career ready standards and a new statewide assessment to measure these standards. Therefore, results are not comparable to previous data.

Northfield Jr-Sr High School, Wabash 8651					
Indicator	School Results				State
	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	'20-'21	Total
Number of Students with More Than 10 Unexcused Days Absent	8	6	3	12	0
Number of Students absent greater than 10% of School Year	57	31	17	69	0
Number of Students Retained in the 9th Grade	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Students Who Have Dropped Out	1	0	2	0	5,586
Number of Students Suspended	27	27	19	22	43,020
Number of Students Expelled or Suspended involving Drugs, Weapons, or Alcohol	2	5	3		
Number of Out of School Suspensions	9	3	6	6	27,981
Number of In School Suspensions	20	27	14	20	20,769

\* In 2014-15 Indiana transitioned to new, more rigorous college-and-career ready standards and a new statewide assessment to measure these standards. Therefore, results are not comparable to previous data.

Southwood Jr-Sr High School, Wabash 8655					
Indicator	School Results				State
	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	'20-'21	Total
A-F Accountability Grade	B	B	B	N/A	
Student Enrollment	428	405	394	391	1,112,611
Non-Waiver Grad Rate	95.59	97.22	98.63	88.89	79.11
College and Career Readiness Rate	56.70	71.4	N/A	N/A	
Number of Certified Teachers	33	32	29	31	60,992
Number of Students in Career and Technical Program	207	186	208	174	192,951
Percentage of Students in Career and Technical Program	48.36	0	0	44.5	22.4
* Grade 7 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	42.1	39.7	N/A	26.9	30.5
* Grade 7 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	59.6	57.1	N/A	26.9	41.1
* Grade 8 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	61.9	35.7	N/A	30.8	27.8
* Grade 8 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	55.6	46.4	N/A	44.6	43.9
* Grade 10 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	27.2	42.3	N/A	32.9	
* Grade 10 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	61.7	62.0	N/A	60.7	
* Grade 10 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Science Standard	59.3	0	N/A	40.3	31.8
Percent of Graduates Granted Waivers	3.0	0.0	0.00	5.9	9.1
SAT Average Score for Graduating Class	N/A	1037	0	1086	1078
Percent of graduates receiving Academic Honors Diploma	0	0	0	38.2	39.6
Number of graduates receiving Core 40 Diploma	53	53	60	56	64648
Percent of 12th Graders Taking SAT	N/A	34.3		41.1	22.0
Percent Core 40 with Honors Diploma	31.3	37.1	34.7	38.2	39.6
Percent Core 40 Diploma	79.1	75.7	83.3	82.4	90.1
Pupil Enrollment to Certified Employee Ratio	11.2	10.9	10.6	11.1	12.7
Graduation Rate	98.5	97.2	98.6	94.4	87.1
Attendance Rate	95.1	95.1	96.0	93.5	93.3

\* In 2014-15 Indiana transitioned to new, more rigorous college-and-career ready standards and a new statewide assessment to measure these standards. Therefore, results are not comparable to previous data.

Southwood Jr-Sr High School, Wabash 8655					
Indicator	School Results				State
	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	'20-'21	Total
Number of Students with More Than 10 Unexcused Days Absent	6	6	3	21	0
Number of Students absent greater than 10% of School Year	36	28	16	68	0
Number of Students Retained in the 9th Grade	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Students Who Have Dropped Out	0	0	1	3	5,586
Number of Students Suspended	11	21	10	17	43,020
Number of Students Expelled	0	0	0	1	891
Number of Students Expelled or Suspended involving Drugs, Weapons, or Alcohol	1	1	1	3	2,943
Number of Out of School Suspensions	3	1	0	3	27,981
Number of In School Suspensions	9	20	10	14	20,769

\* In 2014-15 Indiana transitioned to new, more rigorous college-and-career ready standards and a new statewide assessment to measure these standards. Therefore, results are not comparable to previous data.

Southwood Elementary School, Wabash 8656					
Indicator	School Results				State
	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	'20-'21	Total
A-F Accountability Grade	C	C	C	N/A	
Student Enrollment	498	456	445	436	1,112,611
Number of Certified Teachers	29	28	29	27	60,992
Percentage of Students Passing IREAD	93.3	93.0	N/A	90.9	80.4
* Grade 3 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	61.8	72.2	N/A	69.8	48.7
* Grade 3 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	68.0	44.4	N/A	49.1	38.7
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	39.2	42.9	N/A	43.3	43.7
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	67.6	50.8	N/A	58.2	39.6
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Science Standard	86.5	58.7	N/A	59.7	36.1
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	60.0	32.8	N/A	46.7	38.6
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	72.4	46.3	N/A	45.0	39.5
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Social Science Standard	70.7	53.7	N/A	48.3	38.6
* Grade 6 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	48.5	31.0	N/A	31.3	33.0
* Grade 6 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	72.1	55.2	N/A	46.9	39.9
* Grade 6 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Science Standard	61.8	44.8	N/A	39.1	38.8
Pupil Enrollment to Certified Employee Ratio	14.6	13.2	12.5	13.9	12.7
Attendance Rate	96.2	96.2	96.6	96.2	93.3
Number of Students with More Than 10 Unexcused Days Absent	6	5	2	6	0
Number of Students absent greater than 10% of School Year	20	16	5	25	0

\* In 2014-15 Indiana transitioned to new, more rigorous college-and-career ready standards and a new statewide assessment to measure these standards. Therefore, results are not comparable to previous data.

Sharp Creek Elementary School, Wabash 8657					
Indicator	School Results				State
	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	'20-'21	Total
A-F Accountability Grade	A	A	A	N/A	
Student Enrollment	246	254	240	217	1,112,611
Number of Certified Teachers	16	16	16	19	60,992
Percentage of Students Passing IREAD	0	0	N/A		
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	53.8	54.3	N/A	61.4	43.7
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	60.3	51.9	N/A	35.1	39.6
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Science Standard	53.8	48.2	N/A	42.1	36.1
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	80.5	52.8	N/A	52.9	38.6
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	74.4	45.8	N/A	45.6	39.5
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Social Science Standard	63.4	41.7	N/A	48.5	38.6
* Grade 6 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	56.4	48.1	N/A	47.6	33.0
* Grade 6 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	62.0	52.0	N/A	48.8	39.9
* Grade 6 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Science Standard	63.3	48.1	N/A	58.3	38.8
Pupil Enrollment to Certified Employee Ratio	12.3	11.5	10.9	10.3	12.7
Attendance Rate	96.2	97.3	97.1	96.6	93.3
Number of Students with More Than 10 Unexcused Days Absent	6	1	0	6	0
Number of Students absent greater than 10% of School Year	20	6	7	15	0

\* In 2014-15 Indiana transitioned to new, more rigorous college-and-career ready standards and a new statewide assessment to measure these standards. Therefore, results are not comparable to previous data.

White's Jr-Sr High School, Wabash 8673					
Indicator	School Results				State
	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	'20-'21	Total
A-F Accountability Grade	No Grade	No Grade	N/A	N/A	
Student Enrollment	247	282	347	333	1,112,611
Non-Waiver Grad Rate	26.39	10.00	40.00	9.62	79.11
College and Career Readiness Rate	4.70	12.5	N/A	N/A	
Number of Certified Teachers	9	9	11	13	60,992
Number of Students in Career and Technical Program	93	98	79	1	192,951
Percentage of Students in Career and Technical Program	37.65	0	0	0.3	22.4
* Grade 6 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	0	0	N/A		
* Grade 6 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	0	0	N/A		
* Grade 6 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Science Standard	0	0	N/A		
* Grade 7 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	30.0	0	N/A	0.0	30.5
* Grade 7 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	30.0	0	N/A	0.0	41.1
* Grade 8 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	0.0	0	N/A	0.0	27.8
* Grade 8 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	8.7	0	N/A	11.1	43.9
* Grade 10 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	3.3	0.0	N/A	4.1	
* Grade 10 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	20.3	22.7	N/A	12.8	
* Grade 10 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Science Standard	24.5	0	N/A	0.0	31.8
Percent of Graduates Granted Waivers	55.8	79.7	28.26	81.7	9.1
SAT Average Score for Graduating Class	N/A	953	0	716	1078
Percent of graduates receiving Academic Honors Diploma	0	0	0	1.2	39.6
Number of graduates receiving Core 40 Diploma	30	37	48	44	64648
Percent of 12th Graders Taking SAT	N/A	12.5		1.8	22.0
Percent Core 40 with Honors Diploma	7.0	3.1	1.1	1.2	39.6
Percent Core 40 Diploma	69.8	57.8	52.2	53.7	90.1

\* In 2014-15 Indiana transitioned to new, more rigorous college-and-career ready standards and a new statewide assessment to measure these standards. Therefore, results are not comparable to previous data.

White's Jr-Sr High School, Wabash 8673					
Indicator	School Results				State
	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	'20-'21	Total
Pupil Enrollment to Certified Employee Ratio	22.4	25.6	28.9	22	12.7
Graduation Rate	59.7	49.2	55.8	52.6	87.1
Attendance Rate	98.1	99.1	99.3	89.9	93.3
Number of Students with More Than 10 Unexcused Days Absent	3	3	0	106	0
Number of Students absent greater than 10% of School Year	3	1	0	137	0
Number of Students Retained in the 9th Grade	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Students Who Have Dropped Out	11	16	43	50	5,586
* In 2014-15 Indiana transitioned to new, more rigorous college-and-career ready standards and a new statewide assessment to measure these standards. Therefore, results are not comparable to previous data.					
Metro North Elementary School, Wabash 8677					
Indicator	School Results				State
	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	'20-'21	Total
A-F Accountability Grade	A	A	A	N/A	
Student Enrollment	302	286	306	301	1,112,611
Number of Certified Teachers	19	18	20	20	60,992
Percentage of Students Passing IREAD	89.5	94.2	N/A	89.9	80.4
* Grade 3 Percent Passing ISTEP+/- ILEARN Math Standard	64.7	59.1	N/A	45.6	48.7
* Grade 3 Percent Passing ISTEP+/- ILEARN Language Arts Standard	70.2	45.5	N/A	32.4	38.7
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/- ILEARN Math Standard	0.0	0	N/A		
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/- ILEARN Language Arts Standard	0.0	0	N/A		
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/- ILEARN Science Standard	0.0	0	N/A		
Pupil Enrollment to Certified Employee Ratio	13.1	11.2	10.7	11.3	12.7
Attendance Rate	96.3	96.5	96.6	96.0	93.3
Number of Students with More Than 10 Unexcused Days Absent	3	6	1	6	0
Number of Students absent greater than 10% of School Year	12	12	9	19	0

0900

Wabash City Schools

2021 Annual Performance Report

Wabash City Schools, Wabash 8060					
Corporation Results					State
Indicator	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	'20-'21	Total
A-F Accountability Grade	C	C	C	N/A	
Student Enrollment	1,539	1,581	1,599	1,551	1,112,611
Non-Waiver Grad Rate	83.0	88.5	91.8	88.1	79.11
Percentage of Career and Technical Diplomas	9.4	6.2	13.5	18.5	9.2
Number of Certified Teachers	91	89	97	101	60,992
Teacher Salary Range - Minimum	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$36,488.26
Teacher Salary Range - Maximum	\$60,300	\$61,500	\$63,000	\$63,805	\$68,273.96
Number of Students in Special Education	283	281	289	282	179,000
Percent of Students in Special Education	18.4	17.8	18.1	18.2	16.7
Number of Students in Gifted and Talented Education	195	183	138	26	127,286
Percent of Students in Gifted and Talented Education	12.7	11.6	8.6	1.7	12.3
Number of Students Receiving Free or Reduced Lunches	893	920	941	851	510,751
Percent of Students Receiving Free or Reduced Price Lunches	58.0	58.2	58.8	54.9	47.0
Number of Limited English Proficiency Students	7	4	8	5	73,112
Percent of Limited English Proficiency Students	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.3	6.6
Percent of Students in Foster Care	1.5	2.15	2.6	2.9	1.65
Number of Students in Alternative Education	12	34	33	33	15551
Percentage of Students in Alternative Education	0.7	2.1	2	2.1	6.8
Number of Students in Career and Technical Program	193	237	325	295	192,951
Percentage of Students in Career and Technical Program	12.54	15.0	20.3	19.0	22.4
Intra District Mobility	0	0	0	0.1	0
Inter District Mobility	10.4	9.4	8.5	9	0
Graduation Rate	96.0	93.3	91.8	91.5	87.1
Number of Incidents of Restraint	0	0	0	0	5,702

Corporation Goals for Expenditure Categories in Indiana Code 20-42.5-3-5

Wabash City Schools

2021 Annual Performance Report

Wabash City Schools, Wabash 8060					
Corporation Results					State
Indicator	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	'20-'21	Total
Number of Incidents of Restriant Involving a School Resource Officer	0	0	0	0	324
Number of Incidents of Seclusion	0	0	0	0	5,457
Number of Incidents of Seclusion Involving a School Resource Officer	0	0	0	0	284

Corporation Goals for Expenditure Categories in Indiana Code 20-42.5-3-5

Wabash City Schools

2021 Annual Performance Report

Wabash High School, Wabash 8693					
School Results					State
Indicator	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	'20-'21	Total
A-F Accountability Grade	B	B	B	N/A	
Student Enrollment	460	456	455	465	1,112,611
Non-Waiver Grad Rate	83.00	88.46	91.75	88.14	79.11
College and Career Readiness Rate	87.50	76.3	N/A	N/A	
Number of Certified Teachers	31	32	34	36	60,992
Number of Students in Career and Technical Program	193	237	325	295	192,951
Percentage of Students in Career and Technical Program	41.96	0	0	63.4	22.4
* Grade 10 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	27.2	20.8	N/A	23.2	
* Grade 10 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	47.6	49.6	N/A	35.2	
* Grade 10 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Science Standard	15.5	5.2	N/A	22.2	31.8
Percent of Graduates Granted Waivers	13.5	5.2	0.00	3.7	9.1
SAT Average Score for Graduating Class	N/A	1007	0	958	1078
Percent of graduates receiving Academic Honors Diploma	0	0	0	38.9	39.6
Number of graduates receiving Core 40 Diploma	89	82	66	83	64648
Percent of 12th Graders Taking SAT	N/A	88.7		65.9	22.0
Percent Core 40 with Honors Diploma	40.6	50.5	49.4	38.9	39.6
Percent Core 40 Diploma	92.7	84.5	74.2	76.9	90.1
Pupil Enrollment to Certified Employee Ratio	13.9	13	12.9	13.2	12.7
Graduation Rate	96.0	93.3	91.8	91.5	87.1
Attendance Rate	95.9	94.7	96.0	93.8	93.3
Number of Students with More Than 10 Unexcused Days Absent	12	38	28	95	0
Number of Students absent greater than 10% of School Year	10	42	24	81	0
Number of Students Retained in the 9th Grade	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Students Who Have Dropped Out	0	1	0	5	5,586

\* In 2014-15 Indiana transitioned to new, more rigorous college-and-career ready standards and a new statewide assessment to measure these standards. Therefore, results are not comparable to previous data.

Wabash City Schools

2021 Annual Performance Report

Wabash High School, Wabash 8693					
School Results					State
Indicator	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	'20-'21	Total
Number of Students Suspended	55	47	46	47	43,020
Number of Students Expelled or Suspended involving Drugs, Weapons, or Alcohol	4	2	0	1	2,943
Number of Out of School Suspensions	2	2	2	3	27,981
Number of In School Suspensions	54	45	45	45	20,769

\* In 2014-15 Indiana transitioned to new, more rigorous college-and-career ready standards and a new statewide assessment to measure these standards. Therefore, results are not comparable to previous data.

Wabash City Schools

2021 Annual Performance Report

Wabash Middle School, Wabash 8694					
School Results					State
Indicator	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	'20-'21	Total
A-F Accountability Grade	C	C	C	N/A	
Student Enrollment	471	483	482	471	1,112,611
Number of Certified Teachers	36	36	38	41	60,992
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	58.2	30.8	N/A	22.8	38.6
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	63.9	50.5	N/A	44.6	39.5
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Social Science Standard	45.9	40.2	N/A	39.6	38.6
* Grade 6 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	68.9	28.9	N/A	15.8	33.0
* Grade 6 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	64.8	43.0	N/A	37.7	39.9
* Grade 6 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Science Standard	62.3	42.2	N/A	35.1	38.8
* Grade 7 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	44.6	36.7	N/A	13.2	30.5
* Grade 7 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	59.4	55.8	N/A	44.3	41.1
* Grade 8 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	33.0	28.2	N/A	19.0	27.8
* Grade 8 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	54.6	42.7	N/A	46.3	43.9
* Grade 10 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Science Standard	0	80.6	N/A	80.0	31.8
Pupil Enrollment to Certified Employee Ratio	12.3	12.3	12.3	11.7	12.7
Attendance Rate	95.8	95.7	95.7	95.7	93.3
Number of Students with More Than 10 Unexcused Days Absent	45	39	53	90	0
Number of Students absent greater than 10% of School Year	28	24	30	41	0
Number of Students Suspended	123	128	98	71	43,020
Number of Students Expelled	1	2	0	3	891
Number of Students Expelled or Suspended involving Drugs, Weapons, or Alcohol	5	9	1	1	2,943
Number of Out of School Suspensions	17	21	15	3	27,981
Number of In School Suspensions	119	123	95	70	20,769

\* In 2014-15 Indiana transitioned to new, more rigorous college-and-career ready standards and a new statewide assessment to measure these standards. Therefore, results are not comparable to previous data.

Wabash City Schools

2021 Annual Performance Report

Wabash Middle School, Wabash 8694					
School Results					State
Indicator	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	'20-'21	Total
Number of Bullying Incidents	0	0	5	2	1,984

\* In 2014-15 Indiana transitioned to new, more rigorous college-and-career ready standards and a new statewide assessment to measure these standards. Therefore, results are not comparable to previous data.

Wabash City Schools

2021 Annual Performance Report

O J Neighbours Elementary School, Wabash 8706					
School Results					State
Indicator	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	'20-'21	Total
A-F Accountability Grade	C	C	C	N/A	
Student Enrollment	608	642	662	615	1,112,611
Number of Certified Teachers	35	34	36	36	60,992
Percentage of Students Passing IREAD	77.2	85.1	N/A	75.2	80.4
* Grade 3 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	38.1	35.4	N/A	28.0	48.7
* Grade 3 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	50.0	32.3	N/A	22.2	38.7
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	48.6	38.4	N/A	20.2	43.7
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	71.0	45.5	N/A	27.2	39.6
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Science Standard	62.6	41.1	N/A	27.2	36.1
Pupil Enrollment to Certified Employee Ratio	14.4	15.3	14	12.5	12.7
Attendance Rate	96.7	96.7	96.5	96.9	93.3
Number of Students with More Than 10 Unexcused Days Absent	8	17	19	4	0
Number of Students absent greater than 10% of School Year	24	23	23	24	0
Number of Students Suspended	0	0	18	10	43,020
Number of Out of School Suspensions	0	0	9		
Number of In School Suspensions	0	0	14	10	20,769
Number of Bullying Incidents	0	0	5		

\* In 2014-15 Indiana transitioned to new, more rigorous college-and-career ready standards and a new statewide assessment to measure these standards. Therefore, results are not comparable to previous data.

0100

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0900

PETITION TO THE WABASH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR VACATE OF STREET(S), ALLEY(S), ROAD(S), OR PUBLIC WAY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Comes now A GROUP OF FREEHOLDERS and hereby gives legal notice of a petition to Vacate the following Steet(s), Alley(s), Road(s) or Public Way

A Sixteen (16) feet wide alley in Block Eleven (11) of James Van Buskirk's Addition, recorded on pages 34 and 35 of Plat Book #2, in the office of the Recorder of Wabash County, Indiana, to the Town of Laketon, being more particularly described; Beginning at the southwest corner of Lot Six (6) in said Bock Eleven (11) of said Addition, being marked by a 5/8-inch diameter iron rebar with "JHS RLS" identification; thence South 88 degrees 37 minutes 06 seconds West, grid bearing (North American Datum 1983, Indiana East Zone), along the north line of Geary Street, a distance of 16.00 feet to a 5/8-inch diameter iron rebar with "JHS RLS" identification; thence North 00 degrees 56 minutes 55 seconds West, along the east lines of Lots numbered 7 and 10, a distance of 253.42 feet to a 5/8" diameter iron rebar with "JHS RLS #80040428" identification; thence North 54 degrees 33 minutes 44 seconds East, on and along the south line of the former Detroit Hills and Indiana Railroad, and Detroit, Eel River and Illinois Railroad, a distance of 19.41 feet to a 5/8" diameter iron rebar with "JHS RLS #80040428" identification; thence South 00 degrees 56 minutes 55 seconds East, along the west lines of Lots numbered 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, a distance of 264.29 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Containing 0.10 of an acre, more or less. Subject to easements, rights of way and restrictions of record.

Said petition is presently on file in the office of the Auditor of Wabash County, IN., and will be presented for public hearing before the Wabash County Commissioners on the: 4th day of April, 2022 at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse.

Any interested party is invited to attend said hearing, and make known their opinion, for or against, the granting of this Petition.

Signed: Marcie Shepherd  
Wabash County Auditor  
Date: 3/18/2022  
Wabash County Auditor  
Wabash County Commissioners  
One West Hill St.  
Wabash, IN 46992  
STEVE DOWNS  
Attorney for the Wabash County Commissioners  
HSPAXLP.03/23/2022

ANALYSIS

# Republicans risk alienating key voters with ‘beyond the pale’ attacks on Ketanji Brown Jackson

By **JOHN T. BENNETT**  
CQ-Roll Call (TNS)

WASHINGTON — Race. Terrorist detainees and the still-raw wounds of 9/11. Sexual predators. Child pornography. Mandatory minimum sentences.

Did we mention race, still the hottest coal in the flammable tinderbox that is American politics?

Republican senators have a tough job this week as Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson faces questioning from the Judiciary Committee. In many ways, how the GOP side of the dais decides to treat the first Black woman ever nominated to the high court is the opening salvo of what promises to be a bruising midterm election cycle.

They must, all at once, be tough on a liberal federal appellate judge to placate and excite their base ahead of November’s midterm elections. But they also risk further alienating suburban white women and other swing voters who ditched them in 2020 to give Joe Biden the White House and Democrats control of both chambers of Congress.

Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Nebr., a member of the Judiciary Committee, on Sunday offered some advice to his fellow Republicans: “I want us to vet Judge Jackson’s judicial philosophy.”

But he also indirectly shined a light on the risks of GOP senators going too far in the current cultural environment against a female nominee who also is Black: “I don’t want us to attack her as a human.”

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell last week told conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt that Jackson would be “treated respectfully” by his Republican colleagues.

Sasse and McConnell did not exactly set a high bar.

“Marsha Blackburn is the only woman senator on the committee for Republicans. And all the Republicans on the committee are white,” Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, told CQ Roll Call on Monday. “So, having a group of all white and mostly male senators grilling the first Black woman ever nominated to the court feels like a risky proposition for them.”

“The significance of this



Kent Nishimura / Los Angeles Times / TNS

**Supreme Court nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson during her Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on Monday.**

nomination is huge, particularly for Black women. For them, it’s just so long overdue,” she added. “If she gets attacked in ways that feel personal or beyond the pale, or the [Republican] senators bring up things that are just inappropriate, they risk turning off more independent, suburban voters – and energizing a large part of the Democratic base ahead of the midterm elections: Black women.”

The Senate Banking Committee recently voted on nominees to the Federal Reserve Board, advancing Jerome Powell for a second term as chair, Fed Governor Lael Brainard to be vice chair and Philip Jefferson to join the Fed board. But the committee deadlocked, 12-12, on Lisa Cook, who if confirmed would be first Black woman to join the Fed board. If Democrats want to bring her nomination to the floor, they can do so with a petition to discharge it from committee. Banking Committee ranking member Patrick J. Toomey, R-Pa., had criticized Cook at her February confirmation hearing as inexperienced in macroeconomic policy and for being not tough enough on inflation.

Cook has said she agrees with the decisions the Fed, of which Powell and Brainard are a part, to combat inflation. She is a professor of economics and international relations at Michigan State University and has a Ph.D. in economics from the University of California, Berkeley, with a specialization in macroeconomics and inter-

national economics.

That came after the nomination of Shalanda Young to step up from deputy director of the White House’s Office of Management and Budget to the top spot lingered in the Senate for months.

Two panels with jurisdiction over the nomination voted on the same day, Feb. 9, to send Young’s name to the floor. But a majority of Budget Committee and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Republicans opposed her nomination. She was confirmed 61-36 by the full Senate, with 14 Republicans joining all 47 Democratic caucus members voting “aye.”

### Looking ahead

Here’s how Jackson described her approach on Monday: “I decide cases from a neutral posture. I evaluate the facts, and I interpret and apply the law to the facts of the case before me without fear or favor, consistent with my judicial oath.”

Little has changed since McConnell predicted last week during the radio interview that it is “highly likely” Jackson will be confirmed and join the high court. That means what happens during the remainder of her confirmation hearing will be mostly political theater as the 2022 midterm election cycle heats up.

And what issue in the United States is more political than race?

“The Brown Jackson nomination is a serious threat

to the Republican Party. Opposition to her elevation accentuates the GOP’s hostility towards people of color, which rose to new levels during Donald Trump’s presidency,” said Brad Bannon, a Democratic strategist. “GOP rejection of the nominee would demonstrate that the party is deeply committed only to its base of white voters, whose contribution to the voting pool shrinks with every election.”

All eyes this week will be on GOP Sens. Josh Hawley of Missouri and Ted Cruz of Texas, two conservative firebrands who most political observers say appear to have higher career aspirations.

“You’ll most likely see two groups of Republicans this week. The first, and this probably includes Leader McConnell and Ben Sasse, who are focused on winning back the Senate. The other is thinking about running for president, and I’m thinking about Cruz and Hawley, who don’t follow, usually, what their leadership or the mainstream of the party might do. They’re the two wild cards – they’ll see it as a chance to get a national stage and position themselves,” Walsh said.

Hawley has already made waves about Jackson, questioning whether sentences she was involved in handing down as part of the U.S. Sentencing Commission – including ones involving child pornography – were too light. “Judge Jackson has a pattern of letting child porn offenders off the hook for their appalling crimes,

both as a judge and as a policymaker,” he tweeted March 16. “She’s been advocating for it since law school. This goes beyond ‘soft on crime.’ I’m concerned that this a record that endangers our children.”

But Walsh suggested that using child porn cases to make a broader argument that the nominee is, as Hawley put it, “soft on crime,” could backfire.

“When I read Sen. Hawley’s tweets, it felt like he’s taken a handful of decisions out of context,” she said. “That’s the part that, I think, people will take umbrage with: twisting her record in ways that distort her record.”

For Hawley, distorting or twisting would almost certainly mean prime slots on Fox News and other conservative media outlets – which is never bad for a potential 2024 White House candidate. Senate Democrats offered a reminder of the spectacle going on inside that Hart Senate Office Building hearing room this week.

“Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson’s Supreme Court nomination could have been single-handedly tanked by Mitch McConnell if Republicans had just ONE MORE seat in the Senate,” the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee tweeted on Thursday. “It’s a powerful reminder of how important flipping the Senate was and how important defending it is.”

Bannon echoed that sentiment.

“Dismissal of her ascension to the Supreme Court could also motivate Black voters to vote in the midterms,” he said, “which could lessen Republican opportunities to take control of Congress next year.”

There’s another wild card: Donald Trump. The former president has not weighed in with any depth on Jackson’s nomination. He did, however, offer some counter-programming to the hearing’s first day with a telephone interview on Fox News.

Winning back the Senate and expanding the conservative tilt on the high court was not what Trump said Republicans should focus on this year or in 2024. “I think if we don’t put out all of the crooked things, and we know what they are,” he said of the 2020 presidential election he fairly lost to Biden, “you won’t win in ’22 and you won’t win in ’24.”

## Mariupol bombing compared to Nazi war crimes

By **VANESSA GERA and SRDJAN NEDELJKOVIC**  
Associated Press

MEDYKA, Poland — The president of Poland compared Russia’s attacks on Ukraine to Nazi forces during World War II, saying Tuesday that besieged Mariupol looks like Warsaw in 1944 after the Germans bombed houses and killed civilians “with no mercy at all.”

President Andrzej Duda, who will host President Joe Biden later this week in a Warsaw rebuilt from the ashes of that war, spoke as traumatized people bearing witness to the horrors inflicted on Ukraine by Russian forces continued to flee. They arrived by the thousands in Poland and other neighboring nations.

The United Nations refugee agency announced a staggering milestone Tuesday: More than 3.5 million refugees have now left the country.

Among them was Viktorija Totsen, a 39-year-old from Mariupol who entered Poland as part of an exodus that has become Europe’s worst refugee crisis since World War II.

She described how the bombing by Russian planes had become incessant, prompting her to flee with her two daughters.

“During the last five days the planes were flying over us every five seconds and dropped bombs everywhere,” she said.

During a visit to Bulgaria, Duda compared the Russian shelling of schools, hospitals and other civilian targets, to the atrocities committed by German forces during their occupation of Poland during World War II.

“My countrymen, Poles, are looking today at Mariupol and are saying, ‘God’ – they say it with tears in their eyes – ‘Mariupol looks like Warsaw did in 1944 when Nazis, Hitler’s Germans, were brutally bombing houses, killing people, killing civilians with no mercy at all,’” Duda said.

“Today the Russian army is behaving in exactly the same way. Russian leaders are behaving in exactly the same way, like Hitler, like the German SS, like the German pilots of the fascist army during World War II.”

In the Polish border town of Przemyśl, a refugee from Mykolaiv, 45-year-old Natalia Shabadash, described a rocket explosion just 500 meters (yards) from her home.

“It was very scary, that’s why we decided to leave our home,” she said, explaining that her husband, like many Ukrainian men, remained in the country.

The UNHCR reported Tuesday that 3.53 million people have left Ukraine, with Poland taking in the lion’s share – more than 2.1 million – followed by Romania with more than 540,000 and Moldova with more than 367,000. Slovakia and Hungary have also welcomed refugees.

The International Organization for Migration estimates that nearly 6.5 million people are also internally displaced within Ukraine, suggesting that some, if not most, might flee abroad if the war continues.

## Official guilty of illegally entering Capitol grounds Jan. 6

By **MICHAEL KUNZELMAN**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge on Tuesday convicted an elected official from New Mexico of illegally entering restricted U.S. Capitol grounds but acquitted him of engaging in disorderly conduct during the riot that disrupted Congress from certifying Joe Biden’s presidential election victory.

U.S. District Court Judge Trevor McFadden heard one day of testimony without a jury on Monday before handing down a verdict in the misdemeanor case against Otero County Commissioner Couy Griffin, a 48-year-old former rodeo rider who helped found a group called Cowboys for Trump.

McFadden, a nominee of then-President Donald Trump, said there was ample evidence that Griffin knew he was in a restricted area and didn’t leave. Griffin crossed over three walls, needing help from others or a ladder to get over them, the judge noted.

“All of this would suggest to a normal person that perhaps you should not be entering the area,” McFadden said from the bench.

But the judge said prosecutors didn’t meet their burden to prove that Griffin engaged in disorderly conduct.

“Arguably, he was trying to calm people down, not rile them up,” he said.

Griffin’s trial in Washington, D.C., was the second

among the hundreds of federal cases arising from the Jan. 6, 2021, siege. Earlier this month, in the first trial, a jury convicted a Texas man, Guy Wesley Reffitt, of storming the Capitol with a holstered handgun, interfering with police and obstructing Congress’ joint session to certify the Electoral College vote.

The outcome of Griffin’s trial could have a ripple effect, helping other Capitol riot defendants decide whether to let a judge or a jury decide their case.

But the case against Griffin is unlike most Jan. 6 cases and may not be a bellwether for defendants who are charged with storming the Capitol.

Griffin is one of the few riot defendants who wasn’t accused of entering the Capitol building or engaging in any violent or destructive behavior. His lawyers argued that he was selectively prosecuted for his political views.

Griffin was charged with two misdemeanors: entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds and disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building or grounds. Both carry maximum sentences of one year imprisonment.

Griffin is scheduled to be sentenced on June 17. He was jailed for more than two weeks after his arrest on Jan. 19, 2021.

Griffin described himself as “halfway pleased” with

the split verdict and said he will continue to view his involvement in Jan. 6 as “a badge of honor.”

“I stand proud of where I’m at today and the fight that I’ve been in over the course of the last year-and-a-half,” he told reporters outside the courthouse.

Griffin, one of three members of the Otero County Commission in southern New Mexico, is among a handful of riot defendants who either held public office or ran for a government leadership post in the 2 ½ years before the attack.

He is among only three riot defendants who have asked for a bench trial, in which judges decide a case without a jury. Griffin said he doesn’t regret waiving his right to a jury trial.

“If I was anywhere but Washington, D.C., I would say, ‘Go with a jury trial,’” Griffin said. “You can’t get a fair jury trial in Washington,

D.C., if you’re someone like me, a strong conservative.”

Loyola Law School professor Laurie Levenson said the conviction for entering restricted grounds helps establish for the government that the area was off limits to the public and will discourage other defendants from using similar arguments.

“This will send a message to other defendants that they are unlikely to win on a technical argument that the areas outside the Capitol were not off limits,” Levenson said.

The verdicts also may lead some defendants facing the same charges as Griffin to go to trial if they believe the judge deciding their fate has a high standard of what constitutes disorderly conduct, Levenson said. Still, Levenson said the argument wouldn’t be helpful to defendants who entered the Capitol building or committed violence on Capitol grounds.

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